

Mubarak: Summit to convene as scheduled

CAIRO - Egypt will convene the regional economic summit in November despite earlier threats to cancel it to force Israel into concessions. President Hosni Mubarak said yesterday.

But Mubarak urged Israel to end the stalemate in negotiations with the Palestinians, Lebanon and Syria as a sign of good will.

Mubarak also said that Egypt would sign a global nuclear test ban treaty approved by the United Nations if Israel signed it too.

"We'll sign when Israel signs," Mubarak told reporters after meeting members of his cabinet.

With regard to the economic summit, he said: "We are determined to have the meeting held here because we and the United States have vested interests in convening it."

Egypt had sought to push peace talks forward by threatening to cancel the Middle East and North

News agencies

Africa Economic Conference, scheduled for November 12-14 in Cairo.

It would be the third such meeting following summits in Morocco and Jordan.

"What is required from both Israel and the United States is to help us to make the conference a success, otherwise the meeting will fail," said Mubarak.

Egyptian opposition newspapers reported Wednesday that the US had put intense pressure on Egypt to hold the summit.

Both Egypt and Israel voted in favor of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty at the United Nations on Tuesday, despite Cairo's reservations that the treaty should include provisions for nuclear disarmament by the five declared nuclear states, the United States, Russia, Britain,

France and China.

Egypt has also for years been pushing Israel to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, saying Israel's alleged nuclear arsenal gave it an unfair regional advantage.

Egyptian officials have said they would press at next week's annual meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency for studies and workshops on its proposal to declare the Middle East a zone free of nuclear weapons.

Mubarak, meanwhile, urged Iraq to implement UN resolutions on getting rid of its weapons of mass destructions to avoid further confrontations with the US. But he did not mention the current US-Iraqi standoff.

"I hope that our brothers in Iraq will adhere to all the Security Council resolution so that we can find a way to talk to the United States," he said.



Foreign Minister David Levy addresses Foreign Ministry workers in Jerusalem yesterday, during a reception to mark the New Year. (Yitzhak Elhanan/Scoop 80)

PM: We'll try to boost WZO settlement budget

EVELYN GORDON

THE government will make "every effort" to restore the budget of the World Zionist Organization's settlement department - which funds projects in Judea, Samaria, Gaza and the Golan - to its 1992 levels, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised last week in a letter which was disclosed yesterday.

The promise was made in a letter to Jordan Valley Regional Council head David Levy, who had raised the issue with Netanyahu.

The department funds several projects - from agriculture to tourism - to promote the economic development of the settlements and is therefore a "very important" part of the effort to bring more people to live in these regions, Levy said. If there are jobs available, he said, the settlements become a more attractive place.

"As part of the effort to correct the injustices created [by the previous government] and to restore the situation to what it was, in preparing the 1997 budget, the Treasury will make every effort - by moving funds [from other budgetary items] - to make the settlement department's budget equal, in real terms, to what it was in 1992," Netanyahu wrote.

This promise, if kept, would result in a significant increase to the unit's budget. The Jordan Valley, for instance, is getting NIS 22 million from the department this year, but if the budget were raised to 1992 levels, the figure would be NIS 44m. In 1997, Levy said, the increase in other parts of the territories would be similar.

Overall, Levy said, the division's budget is some NIS 70m. less this year than it was in 1992.

Syria refuses to negotiate until Netanyahu accepts unofficial deals

HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies

SYRIA said yesterday it would not agree to fresh talks with Israel until Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accepted all the understandings it reached with the previous government.

The Syrian position was spelled out in its official press after the US said it had formulated with Israel proposals for renewing peace talks with Damascus.

"Netanyahu is ready to negotiate without committing himself to withdrawal from the Golan.

The previous agreements and understandings do not bind his government.

He doesn't want to resume the talks from the point where they stopped but from the zero point," the official daily *al-Thawra* newspaper said.

"Syria will never be dragged into such traps.

No force could ever push Syria to what it doesn't want and to

what contradicts its national rights and the land-for-peace principle," the newspaper said.

However, the Clinton Administration does not consider any assurances Israel may have given Syria about a pullout on the Golan Heights to be binding.

"There's a very great difference between what has occurred in the Israel-Palestinian track versus the Israel-Syria track," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

The Clinton Administration will probably not know before next week whether its efforts to restart Israeli-Syrian negotiations are succeeding, a senior US official said yesterday.

Talks this week with Netanyahu and his advisor Dore Gold were productive, but additional contacts with Syria are necessary to ascertain

whether the formula to restart the talks is workable, he said.

Additionally, there is a possibility that the US' peace process team headed by special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross, may not even pursue the Syrian track when it visits the region next week, he said.

The visit may instead deal with the Israeli-Palestinian talks and with the November regional economic conference in Cairo, he added.

That is due to the US' understanding of the limits of Israeli diplomatic traffic, he said.

"The Israeli-Palestinian focus is at the moment more urgent," he said.

The Syria track will again take a back seat in Israel, he said, because of "a combination of the new government's approach to the

[Syrian] negotiations, its wariness of being locked into past patterns, combined with the reality that no Israeli government can make judgments on more than one track. The domestic effects of this [Palestinian] situation are so volatile, you have to handle it very carefully."

The official was confident that the US would succeed in finding a "middle ground" to getting the sides back to the Wye talks in Maryland, despite their divergent public positions on the fate of the Golan Heights.

"I don't know if we can do it in the next [few] months before the [US] election," he said.

"But does it matter whether you resume before or after November? The question is how to recreate the atmosphere in which the Israelis and the Syrians are thinking of how to resolve problems, not create them."

Palestinians banned from new road to Gush Etzion

JON IMMANUEL

PALESTINIANS, with the exception of a few with special permits, are being barred from the new road from Gush Etzion to Jerusalem, making it the first West Bank bypass road that Palestinians may not use.

"The road is designed for the Israeli population and defense forces only. The Palestinian population has other roads at its disposal," the IDF Spokesman said.

Mustafa Natsbe, the mayor of Hebron, whose residents would be among those likely to use the new road, said he was astonished by the regulation and called it "apartheid on the roads."

"The roads are built on confiscated Arab land and we cannot use them? This is unjust and we shall protest," Natsbe said.

Military sources denied this was part of a separation process. "It is purely for security. Israelis can use any roads they want except when Palestinians towns are declared closed military areas," he said.

Few Palestinians have tried to use the road, opened last week, because under the closure relatively few have permits to travel to Jerusalem. The road, featuring two tunnels and a bridge, has no exits between Gush Etzion and the capital.

Some workers who have permits to enter Jerusalem said they tried to use the road and were stopped at the Gush Etzion checkpoint. The complained that using the road would save them time and gasoline expenses.

The new road is the only route from the West Bank into Jerusalem that does not have a checkpoint at the entrance to the city. Military sources said the IDF did not want to add yet another checkpoint at the entrance to Jerusalem and preferred that Palestinians pass through the fixed checkpoint on the road that leads to Bethlehem.

The absence of a checkpoint on the new road, which cuts travel time to Gush Etzion by half, also removes a psychological barrier, making Gush Etzion, 11 kilometers across the Green Line, feel more like a suburb of Jerusalem.

Natsbe himself was stopped for 20 minutes at the Gush Etzion checkpoint last week. Only after he called the IDF governor of Hebron did he receive special permission to proceed.

He did not know at the time that there was a general ban on its use by Palestinians, having been assured by the governor that it was open to all.

Successive Israeli government have defended the practice of confiscating land for roads in the West Bank by saying they could be used by Palestinians as well as Israelis.

Winning numbers

IN yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the king of spades, the ace of hearts, the seven of diamonds, and the eight of clubs.

In last night's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 862837 won NIS 1 million, while ticket number 663709 was good for a car.

Those holding tickets 766101, 796902, 629233, 221006, 790312, 041566, 186345, and 459650 all won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 11905, 80252, 21044, 34417, 21718, 20361, 58031, 08953, 58300, 44749, 10116, 12986, 99293, 35702, 54436, 98120, 73162, 25270, and 34720 all were good for NIS 1,000, while those ending in 707, 279, 844, or 685 were good for NIS 100.

Tickets ending in 80, 85, 55, or 53 were good for NIS 30, those ending in 66 and 79 for NIS 20, and in 7 and 3 for NIS 10.

Correction

The movie review on Page 5 of *Time Out* was written by Adina Hoffman. We apologize for the omission of her byline.

Israelis, Iranians meet secretly

REPRESENTATIVES from Israel, Iran, most of the Arab countries and the European Union states recently held a secret meeting in the German town of Kronberg to discuss future cooperation between Europe and the Middle East.

The conference, the second of its kind, was organized by the German Bertelsmann Foundation, which aims to promote EU-Middle East relations and advance the Arab-Israeli peace process.

A strategy paper presented by the Research Group on European Affairs at the University of Munich served as a basis for the discussions, suggesting that by 2010, the EU, Israel, Turkey and the Arab countries will become one economic and cultural region.

Eldad Beck

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Hundreds help security forces search for Edri Kahalani: No leads on missing soldier

BILL HUTMAN

THE disappearance of soldier Sharon Edri remained shrouded in mystery last night, following the second day of intensive searches centered along the route from his home near Beit Shemesh to the Tzifin army base, near Ramle, where he was last seen Monday night.

"To my sorrow, we haven't discovered anything [in the search]," Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said.

"We have not eliminated any avenue," Kahalani said, adding that with no sign of Palestinian terrorists were involved, the search is being concentrated within the Green Line.

"We haven't discovered any signs at this point that a hostile Palestinian group is involved," he said.

Kahalani and Police Inspector Assaf Hefetz made their statements at the makeshift police command center located temporarily at Eshta'ol Forest, near Beit Shemesh, from where the Jerusalem Police District is overseeing searches in the area.

The Central Police District established another command post near Kamei Yosef. Police, soldiers and volunteers there were given pictures of Edri and a description of the clothes he was wearing when he was last seen.

Edri's fate has grasped the nation's attention, in light of similar incidents when it has turned out that missing soldiers were kidnapped by terrorists, although there are no concrete signs that indicate that this is the case in this incident.

Hundreds of volunteers - ranging from a group of Beduin trackers from the Galilee to drug addicts from a rehabilitation clinic - took part in the search.

Together with policemen and soldiers, more than 1,000 people took part in the effort to locate Edri, or any signs he had been in the area.

Two police helicopters carrying special heat detection devices for locating persons, and a light plane used by Israel Radio for traffic reporting, also helped out.

"The outpouring of help was unbelievable," one police officer said.

"We are very grateful for everyone that has come here," said Sigal Edri, the missing soldier's sister.

Family members said they remained firm in their belief that Sharon had not gone missing of his own will.

Police, however, were less sure about the circumstances, and said they were continuing to investigate the possibility that a dispute between Edri and his Nahal unit commander may have led Edri to do something unexpected.

Police called on the public to continue to help in the search and to report this morning to the command post at Eshta'ol Forest. Anyone who believes he has any knowledge of the soldier's whereabouts is requested to call the Beit



Hundreds search for soldier Sharon Edri yesterday. (Flash 90)

Shemesh police station, at 02-9902222, or any other police station.

Police are planning to cut back the massive ground search for Edri this afternoon, if they don't come up with anything before then, senior police sources indicated yesterday evening.

"In the past, terror groups sometimes have waited a day or two before announcing they have kid-

napped a soldier," one police source said. "Maybe they are simply waiting to give us a bad surprise right before the holiday."

Col. Mahmoud Dahlan, head of the Palestinian Authority's Preventive Security Service in Gaza, said the Palestinian security services are following the case, but have no information indicating that Edri was kidnapped or in PA territories.

Supreme Court reverses itself, rules right to be a parent outweighs right not to be one

EVERLYN GORDON

IN March 1995, the Supreme Court ruled 4-1 that the right not to be a parent outweighed the right to be a parent. Yesterday, in a precedent-setting 7-4 decision, it reversed itself. The right to be a parent, the majority justices said, takes precedence over the right not to be one.

"In balancing [the Nahmanis'] conflicting interests, we must remember that despite the symmetrical language - 'to be a parent' and 'not to be a parent' - these interests are not equal," wrote Justice Zvi Tal, the lone dissenter in the original decision, in yesterday's majority ruling. "The interest in parenthood is a basic and existential value, both for the individual and for society as a whole. In contrast, there is no intrinsic value to the absence of parenthood."

Therefore, he said, there is no societal interest in allowing a man to withdraw his consent, once given, while there is a societal interest in making artificial insemination a viable alternative - which it would not be if a woman knew her partner could veto the pregnancy even after she had been through the difficult and invasive procedure.

Danny's consent, the fact that Ruti acted on this consent, and her reasonable expectation that this consent was sufficient to allow her to have the baby, all combine to prohibit Danny from being able retroactively to change his mind, wrote Tal, who was joined by Dalia Dorner, Gavriel Bach, Eliezer Goldberg, Eliahu Mazza, Ya'acov Kedmi and Ya'akov Terkel.

Bach, in a concurring opinion, said this argument is especially compelling because Ruti could have tried to get a sperm donation from someone else, but did not because she relied on Danny's promise. Now, it is too late. She is medically unable to produce more eggs. "Today, nobody is trying to force [Danny] to do anything," Bach added. "He is being deprived only of the right to prevent Ruti from using her eggs, fertilized by his seed with his full consent."

Tal also stressed that the natural course of events would be for the baby to be born, and the court had no right to artificially halt this process. If, for instance, a woman got pregnant by telling her partner she was using contraceptives when she was not, no one would say the

woman should be forced to abort just because the man had not agreed to be a parent. And finally, giving one side veto power over continuation of the procedure would give that party too much power over his partner, he added.

Dorner, in her concurrence, drew on abortion law to support her conclusion that once fertilization has occurred, the balance of rights changes, and the right to parenthood takes precedence.

For the majority, a key factor in the decision was that it would lead to more just results. Goldberg, supported by several other justices, said there was no way to resolve the dispute at all through "conventional" legal tools, as the case was entirely in the "emotional-moral-social-philosophic domain."

"Therefore, we must search for another alternative, based on one of the fundamental values that dominate our legal system," Goldberg said. "An appropriate fundamental value is justice."

Even Dorner, who believed the issue could be resolved through existing legal tools, stressed the importance of justice.

Terkel, who also thought the decision was largely moral or philosophical rather than legal, took an especially strong pro-life stand.

Kedmi took a different approach. The fertilization of the eggs, he said, creates a new entity composed of genetic material from both parents. This is a "done deed" which cannot be reversed; thus, the right of the parent who wishes to continue the process now outweighs the right of the parent who wishes to stop it, since the latter would not only be destroying his own seed, but the other partner's as well.

On one point, the majority justices were united, however: That they would have reached the same conclusion even had it been Danny who wanted to use the eggs and Ruti who wanted them destroyed. Since the baby will be carried by a surrogate, the issue of a woman's rights over her own body is not relevant, they said. The only relevant issue is the supremacy of the right to have children over the right not to be a parent.

Justices Aharon Barak, Tova Strasberg-Cohen, and Yitzhak Zamir - who, along with the now-retired Dov Levine, constituted the

Religious leaders praise decision

JUDY SIEGEL

RELIGIOUS personalities said yesterday that they "welcomed" the Supreme Court's decision allowing Ruti Nahmani to enter a surrogate motherhood agreement and attempt to become a mother.

"The [Nahmanis'] mutual commitment was no less of a commitment than any other contract. [It was made] knowingly, willingly, in full agreement and due to a joint effort to become parents. Danny's abandonment of the family unit should not be able to destroy [Ruti's] basic right to become a mother," Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau said.

"From this [decision] we also see how important the sanctity of life is - that the court took pity even on a fertilized egg ... and gave Ruti perhaps her last chance to be a mother," he continued.

"How much more important [this principle is] when we are talking about an embryo ... Surely in this case we must insist on the right to parenthood, to motherhood."

Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Halperin, a gynecologist and head of the Schlesinger Institute for Jewish Medical Ethics at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, said it was "difficult to be happy" about such a painful subject, but that he welcomed the ruling. "In medical ethics, logic usually overcomes the emotional aspect of a question," he said. "But in this case, emotion took precedence, and the terrible injustice done to her has been rectified."

Halperin explained that when the Nahmanis intended to become parents, Ruti exposed herself to

pain and physical danger for the in-vitro fertilization process. Now, granted the chance for motherhood, this injustice was being righted.

Halperin, who was part of the public commission that prepared the Surrogate Motherhood Law, pointed out that the only Supreme Court justice to rule in Ruti's favor a few months ago was the court's single Orthodox judge, Zvi Tal. Four others, including Court President Justice Aharon Barak, voted against her.

"It turns out that the minority is now the majority," he said.

He also praised the media for having a beneficial influence on the outcome. The fact that there is an appeal process, he added, will encourage judges to try even harder to do justice.

The Health Ministry said yesterday since the new law was passed earlier this year, four formal requests for surrogacy arrangements have been filed with its special coordinator. None of them has yet been approved, as they are being examined on a case-by-case basis. An additional 70 couples are in the process of applying for a surrogate.

Asked whether Nahmani, as a woman in the process of being divorced, could apply for an Israeli surrogate mother to undergo implantation of the embryos, a ministry spokesman said the special ministry committee that deals with surrogacy arrangements will have to decide.

Evelyn Gordon contributed to this report.

majority in the original decision - dissented from the new verdict. Theodor Orr was the only new justice on the case to join them.

Strasberg-Cohen, who wrote the main dissenting opinion, reiterated that in most Western countries, the husband's consent is required at every stage of an in vitro fertilization. This is because the right not to become a parent against one's will - a right derived from the fundamental principle of personal autonomy - is so important, she said.

And while a person does have the right to be a parent, she concluded, no one has the right to force someone else to be a parent.

Furthermore, said Strasberg-Cohen, Danny undoubtedly did not intend his initial consent to remain in force if the marriage broke up, and Ruti should have realized this. Therefore, he should not be forced to keep what was essentially a conditional promise now that the condition - their continued marriage - no longer exists, she wrote.

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Weizman calls for reconciliation in New Year message

IN his Rosh Hashana message, President Ezer Weizman warned against extremist behavior and called on the nation to exercise tolerance, seek reconciliation, and respect the opinions of others.

"In this past year, there was one horrendous and shocking event which cast its shadow over all others - the assassination of premier Yitzhak Rabin, of blessed memory," Weizman said. "On the threshold of the new year, at this time of soul-searching and repentance, we have to learn the lessons of this painful experience and what was unearched in its wake - so that it should not, heaven forbid, be repeated."

But Weizman cautioned that there are again worrisome manifestations. "To our regret, following the first period of shock when verbal violence was toned down and the public debate became more tolerant, relations between the different sectors of the nation - religious and secular, left and right - have once again worsened, and violence in the polit-

ical system as well as mutual hatred have again come to the fore."

Turning to the attacks on the Supreme Court and, specifically, its president, Weizman said: "[These] have to serve as a warning light and lead everyone of us to do some sagacious introspection."

"No less worrisome are the manifestations of understanding and sympathy for the assassination and the assassin, that have come to light here and there, even if they are not widespread," he added.

"Let us all take upon ourselves for the future," Weizman implored, "the mitzva of national reconciliation, the duty of tolerance and of respect for others and their opinions."

Speaking at the annual Rosh Hashana reception for the diplomatic corps at Beit Hanassi, Weizman again recalled the memory of Rabin, saying that he, more than any other Israeli, had been a symbol of what we would like to achieve - a man

who all his life fought for his country in wars to lead it toward peace.

He also recalled the large number of casualties suffered in the past year in terrorist attacks.

He praised Egypt for taking the lead in the peace process and Jordan for its role, and expressed the hope that more than five Middle Eastern ambassadors would be present at the next year's reception.

The acting dean of the diplomatic corps, Belgian Ambassador Marc Otte, said that the ambassadors shared Israel's "moments of hope and sorrow." He too noted the acts of fanaticism which had led to the murder of innocent victims in terrorist attacks and the shock felt worldwide by Rabin's slaying.

"Israelis' hearts beat faster when there are threats to our security, but also when there are moves towards peace," Foreign Minister David Levy told the diplomats. "Let's hope that the sound of the shofar on the New Year will usher in the peace we are striving so hard to achieve."

Hizbullah resumes attacks on IDF, SLA after Lebanese elections lull

HEAVY exchanges in south Lebanon yesterday broke the relative quiet of nearly two weeks as Hizbullah announced it is returning to the battlefield following the Lebanese elections.

The extremist Shi'ite organization claimed responsibility for three attacks early in the morning on IDF and South Lebanese Army positions in the security zone's western and central sectors.

The were no IDF or SLA casualties and gunners returned fire, with the exchanges continuing sporadically for several hours, without causing any damage.

The first of the incidents occurred late Wednesday night when gunmen opened fire with machine guns at an SLA positions in the

zone's western sector.

The attacks continued early in the morning when several mortar rounds were fired at another SLA post in the Hardoun area of the zone's western sector.

The fighting switched to the central sector later with mortar attacks on IDF and SLA posts in the Almaine and Shomriya regions.

The Hizbullah attacks broke the lull in fighting since the death on August 29 of Givati Brigade soldier St-Sgt. Amitai Almadon in a close range clash with Hizbullah gunmen near the IDF's Karkum outpost near the Israeli border.

Throughout the intervening period, Hizbullah has been primarily concerned with the Lebanese elections and, in particular, retaining the same number of parliamentary seats that it won in the 1992 nationwide ballot.

The Syrian-brokered accord last week, under which Hizbullah and its Shi'ite rival Amal agreed to run on a joint list in south Lebanon, also guaranteed Hizbullah seats from the final round of Lebanon's five-stage elections in the Bekaa Valley on Sunday.

With the elections effectively out of the way, and due to internal pressure on Hizbullah to prove it is not just a political party, the organization announced yesterday with its wave of attacks that it is back in action.

'Fox of Damascus' still rules in Lebanon

ANYONE who harbored the faintest belief that the second general elections in Lebanon since the bloody civil war would be free and democratic should have known better.

Syria, in a masterful piece of manipulation, has ensured that the outcome was exactly what it wanted - even though the final round of the five-stage nationwide ballot, in the Bekaa Valley, is still to come.

In the previous rounds in the north, Beirut, and Mount Lebanon regions, pro-Syrian candidates, on carefully prepared lists, swept the board. Christian opposition leaders, who might have been able to make a noise had they been elected to the 128-seat Lebanese parliament, were left virtually voiceless and certainly voiceless.

The "Fox of Damascus," Syrian President Hafez Assad, unsettled

Lebanon, however, the curbing of Hizbullah suddenly ceased. The stick was replaced by the carrot, because Syria still needs a strong but compliant Hizbullah, particularly in this area. Furthermore, Assad could not risk Hizbullah running on its own, and possibly winning more votes than its more moderate Shi'ite rival, the pro-Syrian Amal, led by Lebanese parliament speaker Nabih Berri.

Berri had earlier allied himself with Hariri in the elections in Beirut and joined in the latter's verbal attacks on Hizbullah.

The stage was set for a potential showdown between the Shi'ite rivals - a situation which could have re-ignited passions and internecine fighting. Such a situation might have suited Israel, but was certainly not in Syria's interests. So, a prearranged Syrian compromise was offered, and grudgingly accepted by the two sides.

Berri and Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah were called to Damascus a few days before the elections in the south.

and an agreement was reached that Amal and Hizbullah would run on a joint ticket.

This accord, together with an agreement over Hizbullah's list for the Bekaa Valley elections to be held on Sunday, effectively give the organization around the same number of seats it won in 1992.

It defused a potentially explosive situation by allowing Hizbullah to retain its legitimacy in the Lebanese political arena, even though the organization was virtually railroaded into accepting the agreement. This in turn leaves Hizbullah in a position to continue its hostile activities against IDF and South Lebanese Army forces, within the limitations of what it knows Syria would find acceptable.

Assad has clearly shown that Syria can, if it so desires, curb Hizbullah and any other groups operating in or from Lebanon.

Furthermore, the election results underline his adamant stance that any deal regarding Lebanon will have to be negotiated with Syria, and Assad has his own agenda in peace talks - with the return of all the Golan and receipt of US aid to the bottom.

Army eating its supplies, rapturing multi-year plan

THE IDF is using up its replenishable stores in an effort to defray costs until the next budget year and is altering its multi-year plan because of the proposed cuts to its income.

Beyond using up its quickly replaceable supplies, like combat rations, the army has taken the more risky measure of dipping into other stores which are not as quickly

replaced, like ammunition. IDF warehouses are filled with billions of shells of supplies, the army says there is a red line it will not cross.

Furthermore, the IDF says it is having difficulty maintaining the multi-year plan because there is not a multi-year budget. It is making

changes to it - removing some projects and deferring others - until the economic picture is more clear. The changes are not radical, but more a reorganization of its priorities. It has decided to do away with some projects because the IDF understood they could not be implemented or would slow down too many other projects.

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Israelis remanded for 8 days after Cyprus escape

NICOSIA (Reuters) - Four Israelis were remanded in custody in Cyprus yesterday, one day after a daring but short-lived escape from police detention to the Turkish-held north of the island.

A district court in Nicosia remanded Avi Biton, 21, his brother David, 24, Amnon Shimon, 28, and Shuki Samana, 24, all from Haifa, for eight days in connection with the escape.

Avi Biton and Samana fled through a UN checkpoint into the Turkish-held areas of Cyprus on Wednesday morning, after the two other suspects used motorcycles to waylay a police car taking them to court and cut off their handcuffs with clip-pers.

But the two were soon back behind bars, after Turkish Cypriot police, upon UN inter-vention, returned them across the UN-patrolled buffer zone.

"From evidence presented to the court there is reasonable sus-picion that the four are involved in the crimes under investiga-tion," Judge Eftychia Kolasi said.

The men are being held on sus-picion of illegal possession of a gun and carrying it to incite terror, of carrying a knife, caus-ing malicious damage, escaping detention, and assisting escape.

Biton and Samana had fled as they were being taken from Nicosia's central prison to the coastal town of Lamaca to stand trial on charges of pos-sessing \$7,000 in counterfeit bills. The two were arrested on August 30.



Shuki Samana (right) and Avi Biton (center) are taken into a Nicosia courthouse where they were remanded yesterday. (Reuters)

Police kill fugitive who ran TA roadblock

THE Justice Ministry's Police Investigations division is look-ing into the killing of an escaped prisoner, Ziv Barda, by a policeman yesterday morning, after Barda refused to stop for a standard roadblock in Tel Aviv.

Following a kilometer-long chase through the streets of south Tel Aviv, Barda, 27, of Bar Yam, was shot by one or two policemen, after he tried to run them over, ignored red lights and tried to run the police van off the road, the policemen said.

"The victim had every reason not to stop for the police road-block," Hayarkon police chief Dep.-Cmdr. Ya'acov Shoval said yesterday. "He had a long criminal record for scores of offenses, mainly relating to stolen property. He had also been banned from driving and had failed to return to prison around two months ago after a furlough."

RAINE MARCUS

Barda was positively identi-fied several hours after his death by his fingerprints.

The incident occurred just after 5 a.m. while Barda was driving a vehicle which belongs to a man who runs an unofficial center for wayward teenagers and drug addicts in the Neve Tzedek area. On Kaufmann Street, just opposite the city's Dolphinarium, he noticed a rou-tine police roadblock, slowed down and then sped off, accord-ing to police.

Shoval said that after a pre-liminary inquiry and speaking to the policemen involved, he is convinced that Barda tried to run them over. The two patrol-men then got into their van and a chase began. A few minutes later, after, according to police, Barda had driven through red lights and attempted to run the

police van off the road, the policemen opened fire, severely injuring Barda. He was taken to Ichilov Hospital, where he died of his wounds.

Barda had been serving a four-and-a-half-year term for fraud charges and was a known drug addict. He was due for release in January 1997. In July, he received a 48-hour furlough and failed to return. Prisons Service spokesman Moshe Malul said.

As in all cases in which some-one is killed by police, the case has been transferred to the Justice Ministry's police inves-tigations division, which will determine if shooting by the police was justified.

Shoval said that he is con-vinced the patrolmen acted cor-rectly.

"The driver endangered lives and someone could have been easily killed," he said.

Paris Air Show woos local defense contractors

VISITING organizers of the Paris Air Show, yesterday pitched local defense contrac-tors to participate in what they called the largest air exhibition in the world.

"We would like to increase participation from various areas," said Jean-Luc Joly, director-general of the show, "especially the East and the Far East. Israel's participation is already quite high."

The exhibition is scheduled for June 15-22 at Le Bourget, a small town outside Paris. In the past, aircraft and defense con-tractors comprised most of those participating.

Organizers said Israel was No. 5 in foreign participation in the last biannual show, held in 1995. Ahead of Israel, which brought 888 visitors, were Belgium, Holland, Italy, and Switzerland.

STEVE RODAN

Altogether 31,856 visitors arrived from 144 countries. They included 3,048 journalists. Israel will have its own trade pavilion on the south side of the giant exhibition. Israel Aircraft Industries will take up one hall, and other Israeli companies will be located in an adjacent room.

"If you don't attend this show, you don't exist," said Dita

Gurevitz, director of the fairs and exhibitions division of the Israel Export Institute, which is organizing the Israeli pavilion. "The companies come for the exposure."

Gurevitz said the Israeli pavilion will be 2,000 square meters and cost \$1 million, 75 percent of which will be paid for by the companies to the exhibition.

Organizers of the Paris Air Show are taking their pitch to

Turkey, and then move on to the Far East. They said they will not visit the Arab countries because their aircraft industries are sim-ply too small to warrant interna-tional attention.

"We hope to visit them later on," Joly said. "But our visits to countries depend on their past participation in the show and the potential of the industry in terms of business and growth capability."

NEWS IN BRIEF

4 Lebanese charged with security offenses
Four Lebanese nationals were charged in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday with involvement in trying to kidnap another Lebanese citizen. They were charged with conspiracy to aid the enemy in time of war, and with giving information to an enemy with the intent of damaging national security.

Slight drop in terror fatalities
The number of Israelis killed in terror attacks declined slightly in the third full year since mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO on September 9, 1993. Peace Watch reported yesterday. It said 75 Israelis were killed in terror attacks between September 9, 1995, and September 8, 1996, compared with 83 during that period in 1994-95. Of these victims, 60 died in five suicide attacks between February 25 and March 4.

Internet 'Post' offers multimedia holiday greeting

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Jerusalem Post's Internet Edition has become the first on-line news service to offer an animated, multimedia holiday greeting. One click and the proper downloaded software produces five dancing frogs, which sing a Rosh Hashana song in Hebrew before diving into their pond. The 20-second message was meant by the Post's management and staff as a word of thanks to their readership around the world.

The special feature, which will be on line until the end of Succot, was produced by Pineapple Ltd., a four-year-old multimedia company that pioneered in the production of electronic greeting cards.

Company managing director Avi Tenenbaum said Pineapple wanted the animated greeting to appear in the Post's Internet Edition (at <http://www.ipost.co.il>) because "it offers a great service and we have great appreciation for it."

So far, the animated greetings are available in English and Hebrew, but other languages are in the offing. "If Arab customers want it in Arabic, we will do that too, inshallah," he said.

Dieticians offer advice on how not to gain weight during the holidays

JUDY SIEGEL

IT'S possible to enjoy the upcoming holidays without gaining weight, according to the Israel Dieticians Association, which on the eve of Rosh Hashana issued guidelines for doing so.

If you are cooking the meals, eat a low-calorie but satisfying meal consisting of salads before starting to cook so that you don't overdo the tasting in the process. Experts say you don't have to forgo traditional foods, but eat down the amount of fat, and broil or bake rather than fry them. You may sample every course, but it's best to eat only a little of each.

Between meals, eat lots of low-calorie salads and cheese to reduce your appetite for the heavy meals. Make a list of the days in September and October that are not holidays, and on those dates prepare low-calorie meals to make up for the holiday feasts.

The dieticians suggest eating chicken, turkey or low-fat meat fillers rather than internal organs and fatty meats. If you are invited to a meal, sit close to low-calorie salads. Avoid high-calorie foods such as humous and tehina and pita. Choose red wine over other alcoholic beverages. Avoid chocolates and cakes if possible. Drink low- or no-calorie beverages instead of fruit juices (155 calories a glass).

If you do gain weight during the holidays, dieticians warn against drastic diets afterwards. Consult with a clinical dietician for advice on how to lose weight gradually.

Meanwhile, Magen David Adom will boost its first-aid and ambulance staff for Rosh Hashana. Additional ambulances will be stationed near main highways to assist vacationers.

The public is asked to donate blood as there is already a shortage and the supply usually diminishes during the holiday period. Call the toll-free number (177-022-5911) for information.

Ministry suggests precautions for cleaning fish

The Health Ministry yesterday urged the public to wear protective gloves when cleaning fish - especially ammon (St. Peter's) fish - to avoid infection by Vibrio bacteria. Last month, three men with chronically weak immune systems were hospitalized with this condition, and the fingers of one of them had to be amputated. Since then, two more people - who were completely healthy - have suffered serious infection after being jabbed by fish fins. Eating infected fish is safe if it has been cooked well, said the ministry, which issued the warning on the eve of Rosh Hashana, when fish consumption significantly increases.

Faithful files petition against Mount building

The Temple Mount Faithful yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice to issue a restraining order against the illegal construction by the Wakf on the Temple Mount. The petition, which names both the Wakf and the Jerusalem Municipality, calls on the court to protect the Jewish integrity of the site.

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End to innocence

LITTLE more than a year short of two epochal anniversaries - a century since the First Zionist Congress at Basel and 50 years since the founding of the state - Israel finds itself seemingly bereft of the sense of purpose and triumph those landmark dates should evoke. The Jewish year 5756 was one of the starkest in Israel's history, despite a vigorous economy, an absence of war, and a peace process that is still afloat, however low in the water. The feeling of delegitimization felt by a sizable portion of the population under the previous government, and the suicide bombings of February and March, would, in any normal 12-month period, be enough to mark it as a year best left behind. But the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin at the hands of a fellow Jew made 5756 tragically unforgettable. Despite protests to the contrary, the assassin was not a lone gunman acting out some personal fantasy. He was willed into existence by a fanatic strain that has developed on the extreme margins of Israeli society. The phalanx of security men that now surround the country's leaders, and that are even required to guard the president of the Supreme Court in the face of death threats, suggests that Israel has turned a corner and left innocence behind. Mainstream Israel is separated by a chasm not only from the extremist nationalist fringe but from the sizable, and politically powerful, haredi community, as has again been demonstrated by the dispute over Shabbat traffic on Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan and the debate over the validity of High Court of Justice rulings. Furthermore, the results of this year's

Knesset elections exposed a fragmentation of society along ethnic lines that has not been overcome by half a century of nationhood. The mainstream itself appears rulerless in a post-ideological age. The shocking speed in which the shirking of army reserve duty has achieved social acceptance has rightly become a subject of major national concern. The kibbutz movement, once the dynamo of the Zionist movement, is asking itself existential questions and getting confused replies. Even the national religious movement, the most purposeful of all mainstream elements, has become somewhat subdued in the wake of the Rabin assassination by someone who grew up in its ranks. But despite the erosion in Israel's sense of self, the national fiber remains essentially intact. The transfer of political power, the ultimate test of democracy, was effected in exemplary fashion despite the hairbreadth Likud victory and the bitter undercurrents of the campaign. The vigor of the high-tech sector testifies to the country's exciting economic potential. Even politically, the difference between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's vision of a settlement with the Palestinians and Labor's vision - unlike their difference over Syria - is not a difference in kind, but in measure. The days between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur are, according to Jewish tradition, a time for introspection, soul-searching and atonement. The opportunity this period gives all sectors of society to reflect upon the ties that bind and the all too real danger of fraternal hate, should not be passed up.

Russian maturity

THE partial transfer of power this week by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is a sign of how far Russia has come. Last Thursday, Yeltsin admitted - finally - that he has serious health problems, and was to have a heart operation at the end of the month. The choice, he said, was between having the operation and "working passively." Yeltsin said he had no alternative: Passivity, for him, was not an option. What was most newsworthy was the acknowledgment of a need for such an operation. Yeltsin's health has long been an issue, and two heart ailments last year in July and October put the Russian leader in the hospital and inaccessible for weeks at a time. Nobody would say whether the ailments were heart attacks or something less severe, but rumors persisted. The matter became a campaign issue in the spring, when the public did not see Yeltsin for days and reports were widespread that he was seriously incapacitated. In a throwback to the Communist years, Yeltsin's aides said only that he was exhausted from all his travels and campaigning and was resting. An occasional public appearance was enough to keep at bay the rumors that he was dead, but the questions remained. Yeltsin presumably felt that to reveal such a "weakness" at that time could cause an anxious electorate to panic and vote for his Communist opponent, Gennady

Zyuganov, thus rolling back years of Russian reform. Now, having won the July 3 runoff election, the 65-year-old Yeltsin faces a different problem: If his health does not improve after the operation, who will be his successor? Three potential heirs are already staking out political positions: Chernomyrdin, national security adviser Alexander Lebed, and Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov. Chernomyrdin, who under the Russian constitution would take over as acting president until new elections are held within three months, is someone Yeltsin can trust. The Russian premier seems to have learned the lessons of last year when Yeltsin was last hospitalized. Then, Chernomyrdin announced that he was in control of the key "power" ministries, only to later back down from this statement after pressure from his government rivals. On Tuesday, Chernomyrdin proved his loyalty to Yeltsin by saying that he didn't see himself as acting president. "For me, this means that he will remain president, even during the operation and during the entire course of medical treatment," he said. And so, while the political struggle continues in the Kremlin, it seems an orderly transfer of power has been established with Yeltsin's blessing. All that is left now is to wish Yeltsin good luck, a speedy recovery and the hope that he is back at his desk soon.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MONETARIST PARROTS

Sir, - I refer to Susan Hattis Rofel's article of August 19, "The government still rules." It is my clear to me with what exactly she reproaches Professor Frenkel.

Rofel writes that "Frenkel admits" that the only way to lower Israel's inflation is "to cut government expenditure." The nuance here is important: Frenkel not only "admits" it, but for years has been urging the government to cut its expenditures. What is the government of an independent central bank supposed to do if the government keeps pouring money into the system and the economy is faced with runaway inflation as a consequence?

If Rofel has a better idea for Israel's economy than Frenkel's policy of high interest rates pending a reduction in government expenditure,

she should reveal it. She suggests a body which will "use every trick... to keep the economy on an even keel." With all due respect, what Israel needs is not "tricks," but sound economic policies and that's what the people Rofel calls "monetarist parrots" have been providing. The results speak for themselves. Our per-capita income is nearing that of the UK and inflation is under control. All the credit for that is due to Prof. Frenkel and his "monetarist parrots."

Professor Frenkel is recognized both at home and abroad as a stickler for monetary and fiscal rectitude on the same footing as Messrs. Greenspan and Tietmeyer. We are lucky to have a person of his caliber at the helm of Israel's Central Bank.

FERDI ESKENAZI
Tel Aviv.

NO PENALTY

Sir, - I am the daughter of the late Judy Horwich, who was recently killed by a speeding truck on the northern road of our country, and the mother of the two of the children, who were seriously hurt in that accident.

Aside from the torture caused to me and my family by our loss and injuries, we are faced with additional shock and trauma due to the realities of our strange society where a professional driver who admits to speeding and has previous transgressions is put back on the roads to drive what is, in every sense, a lethal weapon and cannot be punished severely for his fatal error. We, as the victims of a third transgression, have no recourse against him or against his company (whose identity we are having trouble discovering) and therefore have no way

of making them pay any kind of penalty for severe negligence, i.e. manslaughter.

If, in the US, MacDonald's must pay a fine of \$1 million to a customer who was scalded with hot coffee by a waiter, believe me, that food chain will not hire waiters with shaky hands. But why shouldn't Israeli companies hire legitimate drivers with severely bad records when they know that, at worst, it will be the insurance company's problem to cope with additional accidents and they will never be held responsible for anyone's pain or suffering?

With the statistics as they are, all the hours of "road safety" education in our schools are a mockery to most of the deaths on our roads.

ARIEL HURWICH BRAUN
Jerusalem.

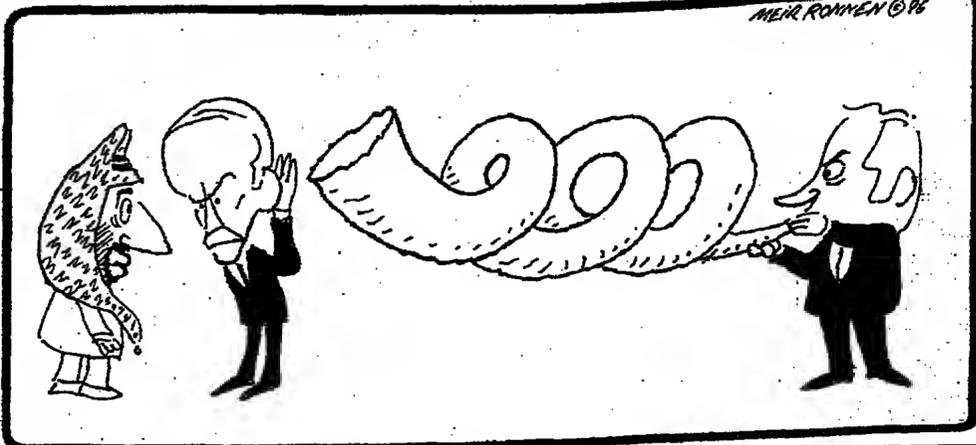
ODD COUPLES

Sir, - A few days before his article "Generations and other gaps" appeared in *The Jerusalem Post* of August 30, Abba Eban spoke on Israel Radio of the "odd couples" which had got together to discuss making peace. In *Post* article, he again mentions the various "odd couples" - De Klerk and Mandela, the IRA and the British, the presidents of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia, and Arafat and Rabin-Peres.

Unfortunately, Mr. Eban, who often reminds us of his tremendous memory, forgot to mention the meetings of other "odd couples" - Stalin and Hitler before World War II and, worst of all, Hitler and Chamberlain who met to declare "peace in our time." Oh yes, the Japanese were meeting with the Americans just before the attack on Pearl Harbor. History is replete with "odd couples" and broken promises. Wasn't Saddam Hussein negotiating with Kuwait just before he invaded that country? One wonders in what generation limbo Mr. Eban is living, for his memories and analogies are very selective.

What a disappointment Mr. Eban has become to those of us who, at one time, looked up to him to plead Israel's cause among the nations. Now he pleads the cause of Arafat, who has no intention of making a true peace with Israel. How often does Arafat have to shout "jihad," quote the peace of Mohammed, lie to us and to the gullible international community before Mr. Eban will realize the truth that there are "odd couples" which seek true peace and there are "odd couples" where one partner is treacherous.

MAISH RUBIN
Beersheba.



The trap of ambiguity

MOSHE ZAK

THE calendar has turned to a new page, but the topics of public debate are the same old ones.

Last Rosh Hashana Eve, Israelis were in two minds over the issue of Hebron in the framework of negotiations on Oslo 2; nothing has changed.

At the beginning of the year we were haggling with the Syrians over resumption of the peace talks. Israel demanded that they continue in the format of meetings between army officers, as agreed in the previous round; the Syrians refused.

Now the Syrians are making resumption of the talks conditional on Israel's government endorsing all the proposals put forward by the previous one during its convoluted bargaining. The new government, desiring to turn over a new negotiating leaf, has refused to accept the Syrian conditions.

The obligation to honor agreements "inherited" from a previous government does not include proposals made during negotiations by that government. If Syrian President Assad liked Labor's Golan formulas, why didn't he wrap things up there and then? Why did he drag out the negotiations and break off the talks?

Assad thinks he can continue his hostile activities against Israel and take his own sweet time over an agreement because he assumes that Israel offers, once made, will always be on the table. He also believes he can keep up the pressure on Israel without putting his past achievements at risk.

This mindset, in a nutshell, is what has halted the talks. It seems the Syrians have learned nothing

from their own history. In 1947 they - and all the Arab states - rejected the UN Partition Plan, even though Israel was willing to accept it despite the narrow borders the country was allocated under its terms.

But then war was forced on Israel, and those borders were widened. The Arabs thus gained nothing from their aggression.

from the Golan. But even though Rabin's acquiescence was communicated via the US (as Shimon Peres has now revealed), it lacks binding legal force.

The fact that Rabin didn't inform Peres of the proposed concession and didn't express his willingness for total withdrawal in the form of any written document

The story of the US 'non-paper' to Rabin should make Netanyahu think twice

In the years that followed they failed in every attempt to use diplomacy to push Israel back to the borders of the Partition Plan. But Israel's agreement to accept the 1947 borders was no longer valid.

After the Six Day War Israel informed the US that it was prepared to sign a peace treaty with Syria on the basis of the international border. This offer, like a corresponding one to Egypt, was based on a particular military situation: a defeated Syrian army.

But Syria rejected this generous Israeli proposal. It joined the Khartoum declaration of no to peace, no to recognition and no to negotiations, and so Israel withdrew its proposal.

INTERNATIONAL agreements are hard to abrogate, and the Netanyahu government would be in an embarrassing position had Assad gone along with Yitzhak Rabin's acquiescence to the US proposal for Israeli withdrawal

proves that he did not intend to proffer any concrete proposal, preferring to remain ambiguous.

What Rabin was doing - having allowed the Americans to draw up a "non-paper" stating Assad's agreement to security arrangements and Rabin's agreement to withdrawal - was leaving himself room to maneuver.

Were he still alive, he would surely explain that his had been a tactical move, made only to test Assad's position.

In the event we are left with only Peres's version, and he says he was surprised when President Clinton, arriving here for Rabin's funeral, asked him if his government would fulfill Rabin's commitment to total withdrawal from the Golan, as expressed in the American "non-paper."

Peres was furious at not having been told about Rabin's move regarding the Syrians; but he promised to carry out his predecessor's commitments. However, this commitment

doesn't bind Netanyahu, who was elected on quite a different platform. The prime minister, after all, is hardly in a position to receive clarification from Rabin on whether he really did mean to withdraw totally from the Golan, as the "non-paper" would have it. When Rabin first arrived in Washington as ambassador in 1968, he was shocked and angry to discover that his government had told the Americans it was willing to sign peace treaties with Egypt and Syria on the basis of the international borders. Rabin wanted to know why his government had kept this secret from him, who had been chief of staff during the Six Day War.

Meanwhile the government of Levi Eshkol, faced with Egyptian and Syrian armies that were rearming, had already withdrawn its offer.

We can only be sorry that Rabin was not spared to challenge the statements in that "non-paper," and that he never got to tell his foreign minister what he really intended by his tacit consent to the ambiguous US formulas on Golan withdrawal.

Netanyahu's government isn't bound by any vague promises Rabin might have made to the Syrians.

We are embarking upon a new Jewish year, there is a new government in the country, and that government must begin peace negotiations with a clean slate, without preconditions or games of "constructive ambiguity."

It must, moreover, be wary of falling into the trap of any more "non-papers."

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

Sophisticated 'non-decisions'

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

COOL it. When it comes to the controversy over the role of the High Court of Justice, this is the only sensible option. The public has no stomach for a constitutional revolution against the rule of law.

But neither will it digest a constitutional revolution on the political impact of the judiciary when it comes to issues that really matter.

It was unseemly of Prime Minister Netanyahu to suggest limiting the powers of the court only days after spokesmen both for the government and for the opposition, representing a solid Knesset majority, had condemned the haredi attack on the court and on its president, Justice Aharon Barak.

Constitutional principles, it has been said, are like the animals in Noah's ark - they come in pairs. The issue, Netanyahu claimed, wasn't the authority of the court, but rather the separation of powers. This explanation satisfied no one.

Before Netanyahu attempts to draw lines, either limiting the powers of the High Court or defining the separation of powers, he must recognize a basic limitation.

As in Eastern Europe, from which our political culture is largely derived, there is no clear line separating constitutional politics and ordinary politics. In the most contentious areas, there is no sharp distinction between the rules of the game and its content.

Thus drawing lines is a risky business, especially when it

defining. When we reach toward heaven, all hell breaks loose. The "who is a Jew" issue serves as an example.

In this, we are not unique. In 1803, the first time the American Supreme Court asserted its right to invalidate a law passed by Congress, the law in question touched on the jurisdiction of the court itself. The matter passed quietly.

The next time was half a century later, in the famous Dred Scott case. The issue then had to do with defining the constitutional status of slavery.

The "who is an American" question was before the court, as well as the validity of a territorial compromise on slavery. The decision in the Dred Scott case is generally regarded as one of the causes of the Civil War, which followed soon after.

THE WAY to handle questions that can't be answered is not to ask them. Our success as a political community has been in the sophisticated development of the non-decision-making process.

The virtue of the principle of the status quo in matters of religion is precisely that it leaves the status

quo in matters of religion is precisely that it leaves the status

How do you handle questions that can't be answered? Don't ask them

debate or the cabinet deliberation, affording a unique perspective to the court, one previously unavailable to the political arms of government.

Secondly, the insistence on a concrete dispute means that time elapses between the political action (legislative or administrative) and the judicial deliberation, permitting a cooling off from the public pressures that brought on the initial governmental action.

A cooling-off period is particularly needed since the High Court is a court of first and last resort. Unlike the American system, there is no slow percolation of issues through the appellate process in lower courts. Most important, there is no parallel to the American requirement that four of the nine Supreme Court justices approve bringing a case before the tribunal.

Creating a constitutional court on the continental model in which various political orientations would receive formal representation, the proposal of Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy, would make the problems of our divided society even less soluble. It would only serve to dissolve the protective coating of the present professional judicial process.

The rule of law is our greatest asset in living with our society and in adjusting to our problems - even if not in solving them.

The writer comments on legal and political affairs.

POSTSCRIPTS

A FINNISH zoo plans to tiven up the long northern winter by running exclusive live video footage on the Internet of a hibernating bear.

"It may be a bit like watching paint dry, but it is scientifically interesting," Ilmo Hakkarainen, managing director of the Ranua Wildlife Park said.

A male bear called Palle-Jooseppi is candidate to be next winter's cybersleeper. Hakkarainen said the scheme still needs sponsors before it can go ahead.

TWO YEARS ago, Paula Selcho mourned the death of her mother

following a car crash in Indonesia.

So she was shocked to see her mother, Shirley Ostrowski, on the Calgary news one day recently.

"I looked at the TV and there was this lady on the screen who looked like my mom, and I said, 'That's my mother,'" said Selcho, 24. "It was like seeing a ghost."

Ostrowski, 44, who was filmed in the background of a local news story, said she thinks she knows what caused the confusion: Her birth certificate had been stolen in Indonesia and she believes someone carrying it must have

died, leading police to inform the Red Cross of her death.

Ostrowski, who returned to Calgary three months earlier after six years in Indonesia, said she tried to call her daughter, but the telephone number had been disconnected.

"I had no idea she thought I was dead," Ostrowski said. The two are getting reacquainted.

A 90-YEAR-OLD woman fell out of her seventh-story Singapore apartment and swung upside down for 20 minutes, her leg hooked over a metal pole sticking

out of the wall under the window. Ismail Bevi was rescued by her neighbors who heard her shouts. She was dazed and shocked but was uninjured.

One of her rescuers, Jeffery Tan, said he was cooking dinner in his 12th story flat when he heard a commotion. He looked out and "directly below I saw a person hanging, struggling."

He rushed down the lift and with three other men who also had seen Bevi's plight broke into her flat and pulled her up. "She was gasping for breath. She couldn't talk. She was in a daze," Tan said.

סקדא מן الاصل

Pressing on with the peace process

WHETHER the timing of last week's Netanyahu-Arafat meeting had anything to do with the prime minister's trip to America is irrelevant. That such a meeting had to occur sooner or later was clear all along — among other reasons because the Oslo agreements, inherited by Israel's new government from its predecessor, left the premier little choice.

In theory, the government had two options. One was to declare that it wasn't formally committed to the implementation of Oslo (but this, though not ruled out by international law, was hardly feasible taking political and diplomatic realities into account).

ZALMAN SHOVAL

peace process altogether, that he would create a disastrous crisis in our relationship with the US, that he didn't know how to talk to our Arab interlocutors, etc. etc.

In fact, Netanyahu is doing exactly what he set out to do: to continue the peace process, fulfill the previous government's legal obligations, and — if need be — meet with Arafat. After all, most of the electorate wanted the peace train to move forward; they

aren't to do with the past, but with what Israel and the Palestinians can hope to achieve now.

Binyamin Netanyahu made it plain to Arafat that the Palestinians stand a very good chance of attaining most of their realistic aspirations — "realistic" being the key word — but not everything they thought they would get from the previous government.

Their alternative? To squander everything they've already achieved and risk losing out altogether. For instance, solving the Hebron conundrum is important, but the issue will have to be settled in a way that addresses Israel's security and historical considerations without diminishing Palestinian self-administration.

The challenge now is to find a formula that will enable the Palestinians to govern themselves

just wanted a safer driver.

HAVING said all that, the meeting with Arafat — and one may assume there will be others — should not be read as a rehabilitation of Arafat's past. No handshake can erase that.

Nor should anyone delude himself that Arafat or any of his colleagues have changed their attitude toward Israel and Zionism. As Saddam Hussein has just reminded us, the "New Middle East" is still far off.

But there is a challenge that is much more important to the long run; and that is to find a formula that will enable the Palestinians to govern themselves — whether as part of a "de jure" peace treaty or as part of an agreed de facto situation, acknowledging Israel's overall prerogative in matters of security and recognizing full Israeli control in the areas vital to Israel's security.

One may assume that these areas would include all or most of Area C, though there could perhaps be trade-offs to the future between areas C and B, the latter today under joint Israeli-Palestinian control.

The second option for the government was to see itself as bound by the agreements in principle, but implementing them very differently from the headlong rush that characterized the previous government's dealings with the Palestinians.

An important point: If in the future Yasser Arafat and the PA were again to commit or even to tolerate large-scale violations of their undertakings under the agreements, as they have clearly done in the past, the Netanyahu government would be fully justified in responding in an appropriate fashion, diplomatically and militarily.

The debate over whether, at the time, the peace process with the Palestinians could have been advanced without resuscitating Arafat is now largely academic; but if after the meeting at Erez some Lahor and Meretz leaders declared that Netanyahu owed them an apology, well, surely the shoe is on the other foot.

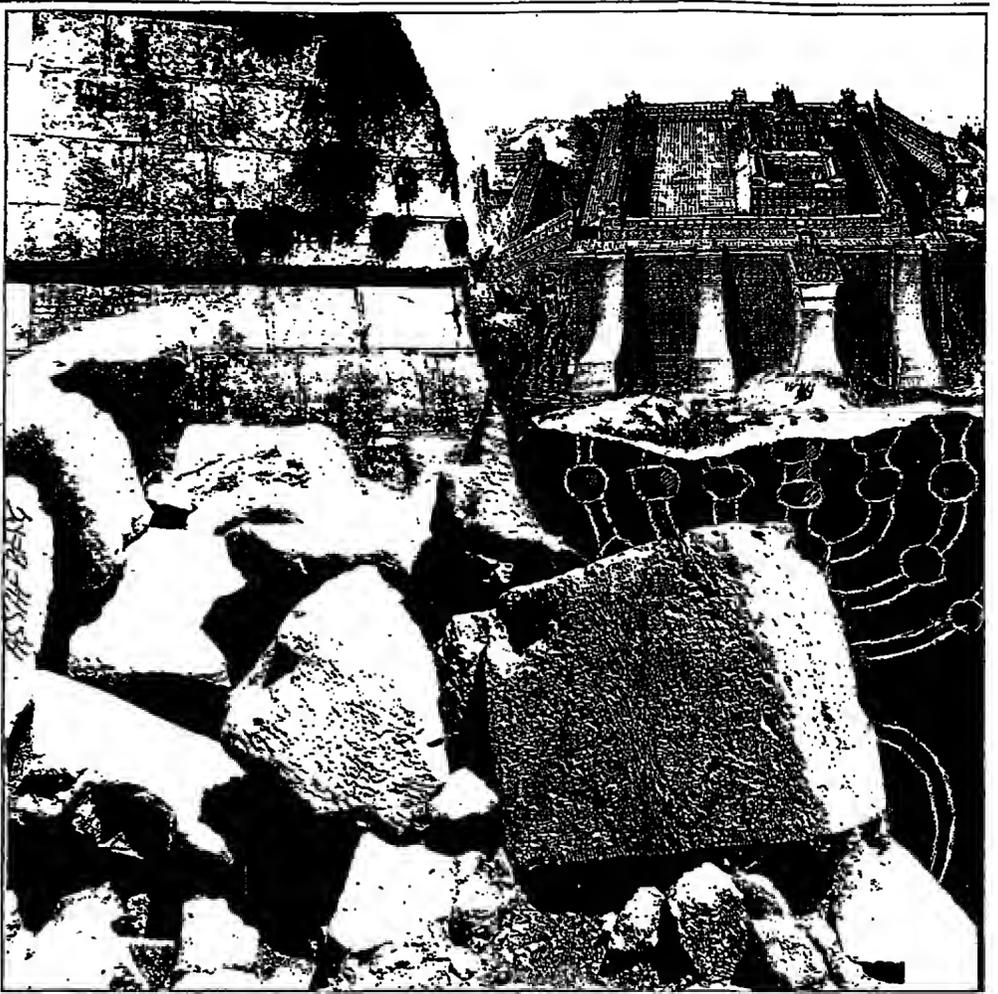
If any apology is called for, those same leaders should be reminded that, not so long ago, they were crying that Netanyahu would "kill" the

With some exceptions, all its negative features are, unfortunately, still very much in evidence: violence and brutality, a lack of democracy, the neglect of basic human rights, a disregard of treaties and agreements, and, last but not least, the tendency of some leaders in the region to change positions and policies almost overnight.

Today's really cogent questions

Some termed the Netanyahu-Arafat meeting a "historic" event. It would be much closer to the truth to describe it as a practical step on the way to achieving peace with security — just as Netanyahu indicated all along.

The writer is a former ambassador to the US.



A matter of lost and found

TAKING advantage of my acquaintance with an archeologist, I visited the site of the recently dedicated portion of the Western Wall excavations.

We stood at the entrance of one of the almost dozen stores which lined, on both sides, the street leading from the Dung Gate to the area of the Damascus Gate.

My friend bent down, scratched a bit with his tool, and out of the dirt in between the stones pulled forth three small coins. After he had rubbed them on his trousers to remove the stuck-on dirt, a Greek inscription and a date palm became visible.

YISRAEL MEDAD

The walls of the stores and little shops are just crumpled remains, while the Herodian Temple Mount support wall behind remains solid. The pavement actually possesses a certain familiarity. A manhole cover and even a drainage opening is visible.

A column bearing Latin markings was found — nothing extraordinary or exceptional that hasn't

from the 1960s on fought an ideological war with Zionism from far-off Tunis and Lebanon, waging a propaganda campaign that negated the Jewish connection with Israel, now face the challenge of proving their own connection to Eretz-Yisrael/Palestine.

What story does its soil hold? What do its archeological excavations reveal? Can the Palestinians

In trying to outdo the Jews in Jerusalem, a pristine Canaanism appeared a decade ago when the PLO announced that the city belonged to them by virtue of the Jebusites, forerunners of the Arabs. This claim, unsubstantiated by any historical evidence, bordered on the ridiculous. The new Arab emphasis on the Palestinians' Canaanite origin is now ludicrous.

But the foreign press ignores the fakery. And the diplomatic corps may even make an appearance at the next "Canaanite" cultural event. At the same time, it looks askance at Jewish claims to the land based on the Bible, on non-Jewish textual sources and on findings in the soil itself.

Dig after dig, find after find, this country becomes more and more Jewish

Almost 2,000 years earlier, in the decades prior to the Roman conquest and the destruction of the Temple, a Jewish shopkeeper dropped these coins, or his customer dropped his change, after the purchase of a small sacrificial bird, perhaps. There, in the shadow of the Temple Mount walls, under a huge stairway leading some 20 meters up to the entrance of the Temple courtyard the coins lay in the dirt between two stones at the doorway.

in one form or another, been found in digs throughout Eretz Yisrael.

But it is a Jewish neighborhood. A mikve is located behind one of the stores.

counter the history of what this land meant to the Jewish people who lived here and developed their rich culture?

The Arabs of Eretz Yisrael are the only self-proclaimed national grouping to have called their country by its foreign, Roman name — bestowed on it almost 600 years before the Arabs arrived here en masse — rather than by any Arabic name.

We never actually lost anything except political sovereignty. That now exists; and it is our responsibility to protect it, from the ground up.

The Arabs claim Arab roots that were never here as found. But no matter how you interpret history, it never really lies. Dig after dig, find after find, this country becomes more and more Jewish. The coins, the pottery shards, the walls, the weapons — all confirm what our tradition teaches: that there is an unbroken connection between the Jewish people and this land.

And now two other Jews, one from Russia and another from the US, both living in Israel after leaving the Diaspora — created when the Temple was destroyed and Jewish political independence ended — had completed the cycle. What had been lost, was found.

ANCIENT history isn't only a Jewish/Israeli concern. The Arab community that has defined itself as Palestinian is also flushed with archeological passion.

Leaving aside the internal problems the new "Canaanite approach" causes for the PLO vis-a-vis the Islamic fundamentalists (after all, Mohammed's great deed was removing the pagan idols from Mecca), will it now jettison the name "Palestinians" in favor of "Canaanites?"

The writer lives in Shiloh, the site of Tel Shiloh, capital of Israel's tribal federation 3,100 years ago.

Nameless children, precious souls

LEA FUCHS CHAYEN

AS Rosh Hashana 1944 approached, I took stock. I considered my old life and my current one. The future? That was a bad joke. Who had a future in Birkenau, or believed in one for Jews anywhere?

I looked at the hell around me and thought, "Even I, living through this, do not know the measure of each person's misery, the small details that together make up individual horror."

In the afternoon, before the holiday began, we women prisoners were allowed to leave our huts as a special treat for the luxury of an extra visit to the latrines. Perhaps we would find a washroom open and be able to rub a few drops of water over our hands and faces.

remain in force until morning.

The doors at both ends of our hut were locked; no one could go in or out. An electric feeling pervaded the air, and I knew it wouldn't be long before we got our New Year's gift.

children. What is happening?" She herself had had two little boys taken from her on arrival in Birkenau. One was 11, the other 10.

SUDDENLY in the bush came the roar of trucks and motorcycles, the yelling of orders and the noise of dogs barking. Tense in our hut, we held our breath.

Who were these children? Where had they come from? What were their names? Is there anyone alive today to mourn them?

It was the Nazis' Rosh Hashana gift to us, and I would never forget it

Just as I was coming out of my hut a woman who had lived in our neighborhood back home came up and wished me a Happy New Year. I noted that even in the filthy rags she wore, and lacking either hair or shoes, she still managed to look impressive.

She wasn't Jewish and could have stayed safely at home, but she had refused to be separated from her Jewish husband and son.

She spoke to me about the future, saying she hoped the war would soon end. Then she asked when the Day of Atonement was, because she wanted to fast with us as a sign of solidarity. I never saw her again.

Anne, a woman of Jewish Slovak origin, was deputy to the Blockaelteste, the prisoner in charge of the hut. We called her "Auntie Anne" because she looked so very, very old. She was actually around 35.

As I remember their screams all I know is that they wanted to live and were afraid to die.

Their emaciated small bodies were gassed, then burned, and what was left was strewn around the camp or thrown into the "Lake of Ashes."

The commotion intensified, and in it we heard a heartbreaking sound: the screams of children. Young boys were calling for their mothers in all the languages of Europe.

The children knew they were being taken for "liquidation." Some tried to jump off the moving trucks and were shot. Lying on my bunk I watched it all through a space between the planks of the hut wall.

EVERY Rosh Hashana Eve, after I have lit the candles, I shut my eyes and am back in Birkenau 52 years ago. I hear those screams of "Tate, Mame" and thank God that I lived to have my own children and grandchildren, who will never become anyone's slaves.

My sister, who was lying next to me, grabbed me by the shoulders. "My God," she cried, "these are

My grandchildren and their friends light memorial candles for those other children, as do I. The responsibility they feel for keeping the memory of those nameless ones alive is a genuine reflection of the verse from the *Ethics of the Fathers*, "The people of Israel are responsible, one for the other."

My hope is that generation after generation will continue this chain of remembrance. May those precious souls rest in peace.

The writer lectures to young people on the Holocaust.

Later that afternoon she produced — from where? — two candles, and placed them on the brick heating channel that ran lengthwise down the hut and was activated only in the bitterest cold.

This channel served a multitude of purposes; a few weeks earlier my friend had given birth on it.

We watched as this old-young woman lit the candles. The scene was heartrending. Each prisoner was locked in her own thoughts and hopes — those, at least, who could still think and feel, and hope.

We wished each other a Happy New Year. We were evco allowed to talk very quietly.

MYSELF, I was wondering what the Germans had in store for us this holiday.

There was no shouting, no beatings, and I thought that perhaps I had become psychotic; but I couldn't rid myself of the sense that something terrible was at hand.

Later it grew quite dark and we heard shouting and the footsteps of kapos as they ran from hut to hut. They were telling those in charge that a strict curfew would

THE MARTHE LAUB PRIZE FOR TOLERANCE AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES

Through the Jerusalem Foundation, Mrs. Marthe Laub will grant a prize to an Israeli who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of tolerance and democratic values in Jerusalem.

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Iraq, US on collision course

BARRY MAY
KUWAIT

Saddam goading Clinton?

IRAQ and the United States were on a collision course yesterday, with US warplanes moving within striking distance and Baghdad saying it had fired three more missiles at Western air patrols.

Undeterred by US threats of a "disproportionate" response, Iraq said it had fired for a second straight day on the Western aircraft that have enforced a "no-fly zone" for Iraqi aircraft in the north and south of Iraq since the 1991 Gulf War.

"Iraq will continue defending its national air space," Iraqi Information Minister Abd-al-Ghani Abd-al-Ghafur said before the latest missile firings. "Iraqis and the Iraqi armed forces will meet any aggression."

But the United States said after Iraq fired on US F-16s over northern Iraq on Wednesday that it was readying F-117A stealth bombers and B-52 long-range bombers for retaliation.

"The determination of the United States in dealing with the problem of Iraq should not be underestimated," President Bill

Clinton said.

The United States was assembling a stronger force than used last week to hit Iraq with 44 cruise missiles in retaliation for Baghdad's military involvement in northern Iraq, an area out-of-bounds to Iraqi forces for the last five years.

US Defense Secretary William Perry said in Washington yesterday that the US forces building in the Gulf would use "robust" action to protect American interests.

US officials said eight US F-117A "stealth" fighters - accompanied by aerial refueling tankers - were leaving New Mexico later in the day on a non-stop 20-hour flight that would land them in Kuwait on Friday.

The radar-evading jets carry laser-guided 2,000-pound (908 kg) bombs that can hit targets such as concrete air defense command-and-control centers with extreme accuracy.

Four US B-52 bombers were flown to a British base on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia.

AMMAN (Reuters) - Saddam Hussein has wrested back control of northern Iraq for the first time in five years, isolated Washington from most of its Gulf War allies, and defiantly withstood two waves of punitive missile strikes.

The Iraqi leader could be forgiven for sitting back to relish his success and gloat at his opponents' disarray.

But instead, Saddam appears ready to risk all by goading the United States once more into military action.

Undaunted by overwhelming US weapons superiority, he told Iraqi pilots and anti-aircraft gunners to shoot down Western planes flying over his country and declared invalid the "no-fly zones" they have been patrolling.

So why is Saddam still spilling for a fight?

To the West, Saddam's defiant rhetoric may be one more sign of his unshakable belligerence.

But Iraqi exiles in Jordan said that challenging the no-fly zones,

ANALYSIS DOMINIC EVANS

set up by Western allies after Iraq's 1991 Gulf War defeat, was crucial to erasing Saddam's memory of military humiliation at the hands of the US-led military coalition.

"He is trying to regain his dignity and his sovereignty," said Saad Bazzaz, a former editor of the government daily newspaper *al-Jumhuriya* who fled Baghdad four years ago.

"If I were in his position I would stop and wait. But his mentality is different. He doesn't believe in limited success," said Bazzaz. "First he returned to Kurdistan. Now he has to break the no-fly zone."

Iraqi opposition figures in Jordan, frustrated by the limited international response to Saddam's foray into Kurdish territory, said the US strikes last week had emboldened the Iraqi presi-

dent to further test Washington's resolve.

"The US reaction was weak and the missiles didn't touch his troops in the north," said a member of the Iraqi National Accord, the first Iraqi opposition group to be formally established in Jordan. "Based on that experience, Saddam thinks that any new blows would not be serious," he added.

"He won a strategic victory in the north... and emerged unscathed," said another exile. "[But] the most important thing for him is to be seen to be standing up to the might [of America]."

Western diplomats said they were not surprised by the latest display of brinkmanship from Saddam, who led Iraq into a ruinous eight-year war with Iran before his 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"He's made illogical and unpredictable decisions before," said one. "In this case, he's just following up a pledge to resist the no-fly zones."

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Hurricane Hortense grows stronger and moves north

NASSAU, Bahamas (Reuters) - A stronger, more powerful Hurricane Hortense headed toward the open Atlantic yesterday after dousing Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic with deadly flood waters that killed about two dozen people.

During the night, Hortense's maximum sustained winds strengthened to 115 mph (185 kmh), making the storm a dangerous Category 3 hurricane, the third one within a month after hurricanes Edouard and Fran.

Forecasters said Hortense was not expected to strike the US mainland or the central Bahamas, thanks to a cold weather front pushing it north, although there was an outside chance it might brush Cape Code, Massachusetts, this weekend.

But some of the tiny southern islands in the long Bahamas archipelago were pelted with rain and gusty winds as Hortense moved past. The airport on the southeastern island of San Salvador was shut down until tomorrow.

At 11 a.m. EDT, Hortense's center was at latitude 24.3 north and longitude 72.0 west, about 1,260 km south-southeast of Cape Hatteras, moving north-northwest at 16 kph, the National Hurricane Center said. A gradual turn to the north was expected yesterday and today, but forecasters said the US East Coast would begin to experience large swells by the weekend.

Hortense's official death toll in Puerto Rico reached 13 yesterday, mostly because of raging floods and mudslides, as police investigated a body found in Guayama, a southeastern town that experienced some of the worst flooding.

"We're expecting the number of dead and missing to rise," police spokeswoman Maribel Hernandez said. "We are just now getting into towns that were inaccessible."

Much of the US territory also remained without power.



Pakistani paramilitary soldiers watch yesterday as Afghan people, stuck on the other side of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, wait for it to be opened at Torkham. Pakistan had closed the border on Monday, two days before the Taliban Islamic militia captured the Afghan town of Jalalabad. (Reuters)

TWA investigators consider blowing up empty 747

SMITHTOWN, New York (AP) - Investigators are considering blowing up a Boeing 747 to see if the wreckage would help them determine what caused the downing of TWA Flight 800, an official said yesterday.

"There was some discussion about blowing up a 747 to see the impact of a bomb or anything else," FBI Assistant Director James Kallstrom said. He confirmed a published report that the

idea came up at a strategy session Wednesday.

No decision has been made. Kallstrom said.

If investigators carry out the test, it would take place on the ground and the explosion most likely would be centered near the center fuel tank of the aircraft, *The Washington Post* reported.

Crash investigators discussed the idea Wednesday at the Long Island hangar where salvaged pieces of plane wreckage are being stored. Officials stressed the idea was a suggestion that required additional discussion before it could be carried out.

In Washington, Deputy Attorney General Jamie Gorelick said

restaging an explosion is one way investigators can try to determine the cause of a plane crash.

"It's not uncommon in explosion cases to try to take a couple of theories and replicate the explosion. We've done that in many cases," Gorelick told reporters at a weekly Justice Department briefing.

Asked if it were unusual for investigators to take so long to find a cause for such a crash, she said: "An eight-inch (20 cms) block could be the source that caused the crash, and if you're missing that particular piece you may not know what the cause was."

Meanwhile, retrieving the 30 percent of wreckage still on the

ocean floor remains a top priority for investigators trying to learn whether the July 17 explosion that killed all 230 aboard was caused by a bomb, a missile or a mechanical malfunction.

The Navy will use side-scan sonar to map a wider area to search as it tries to finish retrieving the wreckage within two to three weeks, a source familiar with the operation told *The Associated Press* on condition of anonymity.

The recovery effort will depend largely on the weather. The Navy was keeping an eye on Hurricane Hortense, which was churning across the Atlantic toward the United States.

FBI declines to call Jewell a bomb suspect

ATLANTA (Reuters) - The FBI yesterday refused to say whether Olympics security guard Richard Jewell was still a suspect in the investigation into the deadly pipe-bomb explosion at the Atlanta Summer Games.

Federal investigators had repeatedly identified Jewell, 33, as one of several suspects in the July 27 attack, which left one person dead and more than 100 injured. But, amid a spate of media reports describing several new suspects unrelated to Jewell, FBI special agent Jay Spadafora said he could not comment on the security guard's role in the case.

"I can't comment on that," he told Reuters. Asked if the change in the FBI's public relations approach also signaled a change in status for former police officer Jewell, Spadafora said: "We're just not confirming anything."

CBS News said on Wednesday the FBI probe of the bombing had gathered pace with investigators focusing on a single suspect and possible accomplices with no ties to Jewell. Other news organizations later quoted unnamed sources as saying new suspects could be linked to the citizens' militia movement.

Jewell's lawyer, Jack Martin, filed a new motion in US District Court this week asking that sealed FBI documents detailing the basis of suspicion against his client be made public.

NEWS IN BRIEF

France rules out suit against Le Pen

PARIS (Reuters) - French Justice Minister Jacques Toubon has ruled out legal action against far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen over his espousal of racial inequality, but said loopholes in laws against racism should be closed.

Toubon said yesterday that he would soon send to parliament a proposal to tighten the laws against spreading xenophobia and racism after Le Pen said that inequality between races was "a fact."

"The words in question do not appear to constitute a violation of the penal code or of press laws, as the principle of equality contained in the Declaration of Human Rights is not directly included in law," Toubon said in a statement.

Jewish group protests Bulgaria rulings

SOFIA (AP) - A Jewish group has protested the way a court overturned Communist-era convictions, saying some of the officials cleared were responsible for deporting Jews to Nazi death camps.

Bulgaria's Supreme Court last month cleared dozens of politicians who served in governments before the Communists came to power in 1944. The so-called People's Court issued prison terms or death sentences to hundreds of people who opposed the Communists.

The Supreme Court found that the politicians had been sentenced without clear legal grounds.

The Jewish group Shalom said yesterday that each case should have been reviewed individually instead of a blanket revocation of the sentences. Shalom said the action cleared officials who were responsible for the deportation of 11,000 Jews from Macedonia and a part of northern Greece, which Bulgaria governed as Germany's ally in World War II.

Lawyer: Papon had heart operation

PARIS (AP) - Maurice Papon, a former Vichy official accused of war crimes, has undergone major open-heart surgery, his lawyer confirmed last night.

Papon, accused of organizing the deportation of hundreds of Jews to Nazi death camps during World War II, was operated on in July, said lawyer Jean-Marc Varaut. Varaut declined to elaborate on the operation or Papon's condition, but French radio Europe 1 reported the 86-year-old Papon underwent a triple-bypass operation.

The news came one week before a Bordeaux court is to rule September 18 on whether prosecutors have enough evidence to try Papon.

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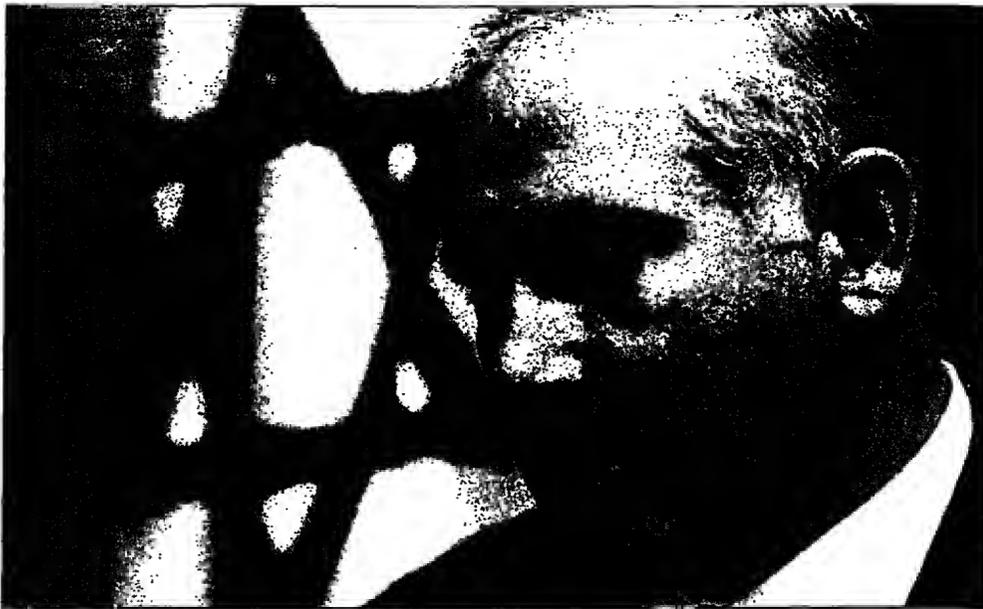
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NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, September 13, 1996

'We're not seeking to toss out Hebron agreement'

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, in a Rosh Hashana interview with David Makovsky, insists his government will meet its commitments, in both the diplomatic and economic arenas



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu: This year our principal task is to move ahead in the negotiations for peace with the Palestinians. (Ariel Jerozolimski)

Meeting with Arafat

Q: What was going through your mind last week while you were sitting with the man you said you'd never meet - Yasser Arafat?

A: Quite a few things, but I'll leave that to my memoirs.

You won't give us a little glimpse into your thoughts?

I was thinking about the past and the many Israelis and Jews who lost their lives to terrorist attacks launched by the PLO. And at least I hoped and felt and wanted to believe that they indeed are moving towards a differently reality in the relationship. This is our purpose, and this is what we agreed is the standard we will hold the PLO accountable to. And time will tell if we shall succeed.

Now that the taboo has been broken, can you now see regular meetings between the two of you?

Well, we discussed this matter and Arafat suggested that we discuss matters that are not resolved by subordinates.

I said let's not make their life too easy for them. Let's not make their life too easy and let them start throwing up everything, every other problem, to the senior level. I thought we should reserve that contact for the truly important or urgent things.

But you could pick up the phone if an urgent issue comes up, now that the ice has been broken.

If necessary, of course we shall do it.

Put the landmark meeting in a historic context with regard to what it means for the Likud.

The landmark was caused before, in that we made a decision before the elections to abide by the signed agreements of the existing government, assuming of course, reciprocity. Once that decision was taken, the meeting with Arafat was merely a derivative result.

It seems there are now two camps in the Likud: the pragmatic camp and the ideological camp. Some say it's only a matter of time before you're going to have to face down such ideologues as Ariel Sharon, Ze'ev Begin, and Rafael Eitan. Do you agree?

Look, we have already had many discussions on this matter. It's not the first time we are dealing with the question of how to

handle existing agreements. For example, way before Oslo, the first Likud convention after I was elected, in fact simultaneous to my election, we had a debate precisely on this point... It seems to me that as part of the responsibilities of leading the government is to honor the international commitments of your predecessors.

Otherwise, there's no point in making international agreements. They would be eviscerated of any meaning, and this is something that I will insist on and this government will follow and anyone who is a member of this government will have to align themselves with [this].

Hebron

On one hand, you talk about your adherence to past agreements and you certainly expect the Palestinians to live up to what they signed, yet on the other hand, you say Israel can modify what it signed regarding Hebron.

No, on the contrary, that's not what I'm saying at all. I said that our fulfillment of the agreement depends on two things. One, reciprocity and two, security. Security is the foundation of all agreements. If in the application of the agreements, you collapse security, then you collapse the agreements, which is essentially what happened with the previous government.

What we seek is not to violate the Hebron agreement, but to carry it out in a responsible way, in a way that the arrangements on the ground will be able to endure and not crumble before renewed bouts of terrorism. And remember, I said to Arafat that I think that is not only our interest, but it's a Palestinian interest as well.

We are not seeking to toss out the agreement on Hebron or to alter many of its central features. We are seeking modifications that will enable the Jewish community, the oldest Jewish community in the world, to live relatively normal lives and live in greater safety and greater security.

What aspect of the agreement as it exists now do you find to be untenable? If one looks at the map of Oslo 2, there is territorial contiguity between the Jewish areas in Hebron and between Hebron and Kiryat Arba. Your opponents, like Labor MK Ehud Barak and others, say that in the

end you will only make cosmetic changes, and it will end up being essentially the same agreement.

Well, we shall see.

Would you say the changes are going to be fundamental?

There will be modifications which I think are important. I don't want to say that we are going to toss out the agreement in many of its principle areas, because that's not my point. My point is not to obstruct progress, it's to facilitate it.

I think that the defense minister has suggested some modifications and we'll take it up with the Palestinians. I think they need to understand that our preference is generally constructive and not intended to divorce ourselves from commitments that were taken by the previous government.

Do you see this done within three weeks, a month?

One thing I don't do is I don't put a stopwatch to our negotiations with the Palestinians. I would put a clear table of results that I want to achieve, and the schedule follows the results, not the other way around.

Sheikh Yassin

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani seemed to hint that Israel is going to release Hamas religious leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. Is that right?

No. No immediate plans in that regard. It is a function of our assessment of his health. And his health is assessed by relevant

medical personnel to be better than is commonly reported in the press.

So long as he's healthy, he stays in prison?

Well, he is serving his time. I'm not so sure it's a good idea to make hasty decisions on this point. Such decisions could come back and haunt us.

Palestinian economic progress and political moderation

Do you believe there is a correlation between Palestinian economic progress and their political moderation?

There is. It's not a one-to-one [ratio]. Economic progress is not a substitute for political solutions. And also, economic progress is not going to ensure political moderation. It can ameliorate a situation. It can prevent the recruitment of people who otherwise would not be radical in nature, but it is not going to alter the basic radical core that exists, whose agenda is political, religious, or ideological, rather than economic. The most fanatic leaders of any movement are not all poor. This is rule No. 1 in the history of radicalism.

Sources say that after you were elected, General Security Service head Ami Ayalon briefed you and said that Israeli-Palestinian security cooperation cannot exist in a vacuum, and if there was not progress on the political dialogue, the security cooperation was bound to deteriorate.

Well, we are willing to cooperate to continue the political negotiations because we've undertaken that as a matter of principle.

We will not continue under the threat of terrorism. The threat of terrorism will be the first thing that will cause us to reconsider the wisdom of such negotiations, because if peace is purchased only as a temporary hiatus between bouts of terrorism, we'll never have peace. So I said to Arafat that the treatment of his actions against terrorism must be a constant and not a variable in our relationship.

You keep saying you will increase the number of Palestinian workers, given the security situation. But some say it's not a security issue since this situation has improved, but rather it more a function of the fact there are 100,000 illegal foreign workers, not to mention the 100,000 legal foreign workers and therefore there are not enough jobs for Palestinians.

Moreover, they say Israel does not have the enforcement capability to expel so many illegals. We said we'd ease up the closure, and in fact in the two-three months that we've been in government, we've doubled the number of Palestinian workers that can work in Israel from 25,000 to 50,000.

Secondly, the security arms say that additional easing of the closure is possible, but they insist on very careful graduation on this, because on one is sure what will

it would take over eight years. So what we are going to do when we decide is gradually reduce the foreign workers and gradually increase the Palestinian workers, but there is one proviso. You cannot overnight create such removal of workers; A - The various industries have to adjust; B - We need a mechanism, both legal and practical, to remove the workers and that's why we instructed the government ministries to do precisely that, and we are now going to receive a plan that will explain, in record time - in two weeks - how to take action against illegal foreign workers.

One thousand a month for eight years? Two hundred months. It will take too long. I don't want to say it until I've heard, but I think that target is too low.

Arafat's Tel Aviv bank account

At the request of Arafat, Israel has diverted about NIS 200 million over the last two years to a Bank Leumi account in Tel Aviv, which is used for Arafat's discretionary spending and operates outside of the budgetary process.

Well, this is an issue that the Palestinians have to determine for themselves. We have an agreement to provide certain sums to them. They can stipulate where it goes. It's a matter for them to be concerned with.

Settlements

Do you think Israel can unilaterally expand settlements without a Palestinian backlash? There's an idea of maybe doing a quid pro quo, further redeployment, as stipulated by Oslo 2, in return for settlement activity in the 7 percent of the territories where 75% of the settlers live.

I don't think it's subject to a deal. I think there are many areas in which, in fact, we will have package arrangements, but we've agreed to defer the question of settlements to the final settlement, and remember that Yitzhak Rabin's exposition about Oslo before the Knesset [after Oslo 2], and later [Foreign Ministry legal adviser] Joel Singer, who drafted the agreement, specifically stated that Oslo doesn't place any limitations on new or existing settlement activity. It's one of those things where I fully agree with Oslo.

(Continued on Page 20)

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Ehud Barak: Labor's answer to Netanyahu?

As Netanyahu's former commander, he might not like the comparison, but Barak now seems to be following in the PM's footsteps, writes Sarah Honig



(Aron Ron/Israel Sun)

LABOR'S Ehud Barak is a relative newcomer to politics. As one who has not been embroiled in any of Israel's notoriously bloody interethnic political brawls, he is by virtue of his lack of experience relatively clean. Thus far he has earned no demerits for conduct.

Sifting through the thin file of his political utterances, it is hard to find anything overly nasty or glaringly below the belt.

So it was surprising that he should of all things be so severely taken to task for having evinced very bad manners, if not outright callousness, when he threw his hat into the Labor leadership ring last Monday.

What may escalate into a very bitter battle for Labor's primacy got off to an odd start this week with a controversy over etiquette.

Barak's detractors charged that it was awfully bad form for him to have pulled the stunt he did just when Shimon Peres was abroad. Barak insisted that he told Peres and got his OK. Peres and his loyalists say it wasn't so.

Barak maintains that he let Peres in on his plans on Thursday of last week at a brief meeting in Peres's Tel Aviv office. According to Barak, Peres had then told him unequivocally that he has no intention of standing again for prime minister in the elections scheduled for the year 2000.

That statement, Barak insists, was the green light that allowed him to go ahead with his announcement. Had Peres not conferred his blessing, Barak claims, he would not have announced his candidacy for the Labor leadership and the party's nomination for prime minister.

The one obvious flaw with Barak's story is the fact that the Beit Hahayal hall in Tel Aviv, in which he planned a gathering of his supporters to presumably break the news, was booked for last Tuesday far in advance of the meeting with Peres a few days before. Barak claims that what

was to take place in Beit Hahayal had nothing to do with his plans and was limited to a Rosh Hashana toast for about a thousand of Labor's who's who. Anyway, as things turned out, Barak's sidekicks could not contain themselves and spilled the beans about his bid for the party leadership before Barak's guests convened. This forced Barak to make his announcement at a hastily-summoned press conference a day earlier.

Be that as it may, according to the Peres side, Barak heard nothing clear-cut from Peres about his plans. In fact, no one heard anything binding from Peres and the feeling in all quarters of the party was that Peres is hedging his bet and has not ruled anything out — not even running again. The assumption in Labor was that, if he could, Peres would put off the leadership showdown so that the new party chief would be chosen in 1999, a year before the elections, rather than in June 1997, as now scheduled. With his peremptory move, Barak may have taken Peres on and foiled whatever Peres may have had in mind.

Peres, it is body maintained around him, not only did not give Barak anything like a go-ahead signal, but he heard not so much as a hint from Barak about plans to announce his candidacy and certainly not that this would be done so immediately, while Peres is away in the US.

The first Peres heard of what is about to take place, his people claim, was after the rumors about Barak's impending announcement were in full circulation last Sunday. Barak then tracked Peres down by phone in an American airport just before Peres was to board a flight that would take him to New York. Peres deserved better, argue such proteges of his as MKs Yossi Beilin and Dalia Itzik.

Peres himself sounded irked on radio interviews when he snapped that if Barak wants to run "it's his

Barak's hawkishness could make him as valuable a political asset as Rabin was in 1992.

right," but that no one has to right to announce in his name what he plans for the year 2000. "I will speak on my own behalf and make my own announcements when I see fit and when the time is right," Peres continued in the same piqued tone.

Peres may deny that he took umbrage and Barak may deny that he challenged Peres and behaved disrespectfully and unsympathetically towards him, but the near consensus in Labor is that Peres is very hurt. According to Barak's likely opponent MK Haim Ramon, "Peres has been a sad man ever since his loss to Bibi. Every time I see him, my eyes moisten. I feel for him."

It wasn't very long ago when Ramon and Peres were the worst of enemies. This was after Ramon switched from the Peres side to back Yitzhak Rabin in his leadership challenge against Peres prior to the 1992 elections. Ramon then went on to shake the foundations of the Peres powerbase when he defeated the party machine in the Histadrut elections and then set in motion the Histadrut's disintegration. Most recently Ramon has become the party's whipping boy and his campaign strategy is roundly blamed for the May electoral debacle. Ramon is regarded as being at the lowest ebb of his political career, which is why it would serve him as much as Peres to postpone the leadership contest as much as possible.

This course is precisely why Barak must make sure that nothing is put off and he must seize the moment right now. Barak somehow survived the last elections as Labor's sole spotless player. His boosters portray him as one who warned all along that Ramon was mismanaging the campaign and that everyone was underestimating Netanyahu and not taking his tenaciousness and proven ability into consideration.

But there are many other reasons for Barak being the great Labor hope for the next elections. The foremost reason is that he has so much in common with Netanyahu. Both hail from the same elite IDF unit and both are hawks. In fact Barak was a thorn in the Rabin government's peace offensive that it was not certain that he would join Labor when he left the military. Some thought the Likud nearly as likely an option for Barak, had it perhaps not been for his kibbutz background and the fact that Labor was the party of power with more to offer.

His past outspoken hawkishness may have made Barak anathema

to many on the Labor left who do not quite trust his commitment to the Peres-Beilin version of the peace process. Barak is often regarded as a Netanyahu clone and even his attempt to take over his party so soon after the electoral defeat is seen as a leaf out of the book Netanyahu wrote when he conquered the Likud in 1992.

But Barak's similarity to Netanyahu and his very hawkishness could make him as valuable a political asset as Rabin was in

1992. He could become another Mr. Security and do to Netanyahu what Rabin did to Yitzhak Shamir — lure the voters floating between Labor and the Likud.

This is perhaps what Barak meant, when, in making his announcement this week, he talked about "returning Labor to its natural position in the political map." The significance of what may have sounded like so much palaver was lost while Labor was debating whether

Peres was shabbily treated. Not enough attention was paid when Barak opined that "it is high time Labor got back to the center of the political arena. Labor must stop its movement farther and farther to the leftist fringes. Labor must once again become a

centrist party in which peace-seekers from left and right alike can find common cause with all those who seek security and personal safety."

In other words, Barak talked about making a secure peace. Sounds familiar?

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סוכות מן הארץ

IDF's Planning Branch: The 'what if?' people

Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz is responsible for tailoring the defensive package to meet future threats against Israel. He spoke to Jerusalem Post Defense Correspondent Arieh O'Sullivan

long-range threat to the State of Israel. We have to be prepared for a changing reality. We would very much want that we reach a peace agreement with Syria. This has a very decisive influence on the development of the future of the Middle East. But this is more a political matter.

When you draw up the multi-year plans, do you take into account the problems of motivation? Should you?

This is a very difficult area to forecast. It is not an exact field, and not like a budget where you know more or less what you will have for the next year. We have assessments of the scope of the draft, and against this we try to forecast the scope of the desire to get into combat units using the experience of the past. You can never know how youth will behave in another two or three years or what kind of motivation they'll have. I can say that in elite units we have no problem. For every place, there is a surplus of candidates.

The problem is more with going to the so-called combat units. Here we have a certain erosion. And it is very difficult to forecast the situation in another two or three years. Does it influence the planning of the structure of forces in the army?

Does Israel today still face an existential threat?

The threat is one of conflict. I would divide them into two. One is to have a normal life, and the goal of terror is not to allow this and harm the sense of security in the State of Israel. It is not existential. But a total war by a number of nations can surely present an existential threat to the State of Israel.

The strength of the IDF is built in a very significant way, on the ability of the reserve army. So the necessity of continuing the reserve army with an emphasis on the combat forces is still needed.

As the branch which provides the answers to the threats against Israel, have the peace process, strategic alliances, proliferation of non-conventional weapons and even the changing Israeli society led the IDF to change its strategic doctrine?

The IDF has to give an answer to three principal areas and they are the product of the reality of recent

years. The first is the fight against terrorism. The second is the readiness for war. Today we have peace with Jordan and Egypt. And this as far as we are concerned presents a situation which can influence determining the levels of the IDF.

The third is the second-ring countries. Iran and Libya, and in some ways Iraq, can create a threat which is mainly one of weapons of mass destruction. This presents a



Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz: We have to be prepared for a changing reality.

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I think that at this stage it doesn't have any decisive influence. But it is a matter we have to take into account in the future if we see that it is a matter likely to influence the structure of the forces.

For the moment, it doesn't look like it has an influence, because for now we are able to meet the scope we planned. But we have to look into steps we may take. But this is less in the hands of the army and is more a societal process. I think the State of Israel as a state, and the population which lives here and has linked its fate with it, needs to know that the threats have not ceased. There is no shadow of a doubt that we need to continue strengthening the army and the readiness of boys and girls to volunteer for combat units for the coming years because the quality of manpower for us is one of the main components of our strength.

How does the fact that more and more of the IDF's budget is being eaten up on running costs, salaries, routine security operations, maintenance and pensions each year figure into planning? What is the IDF going to give up to keep within the budget procurement?

There has been a reduction in the defense budget's part of the GNP. The cuts affect the army, they affect the structure. We are now involved in a process of planning to adjust the program to the restriction of the budget. First there was a blow to the permanent forces. The second part is the budget of the army. Do I know what the significance of this will be? I don't know.

We are carrying out a long line of actions aimed at meeting the budget cuts in the running costs. In my opinion there are places where we will have to reduce the number of people. We very much don't want to harm the armaments of the military and the combat units. I think the areas of high priority need to be protected.

To tell you what we are going to cut is not a problem of censorship. I just don't know yet what is going to be harmed. I very much hope we don't hit areas which are connected to the strengthening of the army like armaments, central projects and force structure. We will apparently reduce the running costs. That is very clear to us. Reality calls for us to reduce the standard of living in the army... You want to hear specifics, but I tell you, we don't have them yet.

In light of the budget cuts and the rising needs of the army, it appears that the IDF will start eating its supplies. What will this mean in the long term?

We will have to reexamine the multi-year plan of the army and see if it will be able to exist with the budget problems and if not, we may have to implement adjustments or changes. We want a multi-year budget. Today we don't have that.

One of the proposals is, together with the Finance Ministry and the defense establishment, to come up with a situation where we have a multi-year budget. When you have a multi-year plan, then you know how to build and carry out your program better.

This exists in other countries.

The moment you have a multi-year program and you don't have the funds, the program is more vulnerable to changes and shakeups. The moment you have a multi-year budget your ability to carry it out is much better. We are moving toward that. I presume that toward the end of this year we will start working on this. After the situation with the 1997 budget becomes clear, we will see if we will be able to implement this principle.

How will the IDF look in the future?

In the future the army will be based on quality, since this is where we have our relative advantage.

The other field will be introducing technology and advanced weapons systems... It's very difficult to say what kind of army we'll have in 10 to 15 years from now. We can say what the directions are, there will be an emphasis on the quality of the manpower, strengthening of the commanders.

There are two areas which will exist as long as there is a threat. One is the capability of giving an answer to terror.

I don't see terrorism being eliminated and evaporating from the world in the near future. And the second thing is the preparedness of the IDF to fight a war that is forced upon it. This dictates that we will have to maintain a trained army. To say what our working plan will be in a decade's time is very difficult. We can only give general direction.

Should the IDF in any way set the norms for Israeli society?

They say "we are a people's army." We are part of the society here. But I think it is very difficult for the army to influence society. The society, particularly those being drafted, are very influenced by their families and the educational network. The drop in motivation is not a product of the army. It is a product of processes in Israeli society. But it is correctable.

Our ability to influence society is through the army, in the values and norms in the army and the conveying of messages to the population through the quality of work performed in the army. But to influence and cause changes in Israeli society is, in my opinion, in the hands of the leadership and education system. The army can pass on messages, but it can't make changes in the society. That's not its role.

The role of the army is to serve as a defensive shield. When you get young men to the army, you consolidate them and you instruct them to participate in the defense. Service in the army is a value and it still exists in my opinion. When you go to work your army record is a valuable status of who you are and what you have done and is also a scale of success. Because the army presents everyone with equal opportunities and everyone gets to where they do first off through their own desires and later through their talents. I hope that this reduction in motivation doesn't also erode this value.

There has been some criticism of the military participating in political negotiations. You are now a member of the steering

committee with the Palestinians. Do you feel that this position is a natural one to participate in these negotiations and what can you contribute to it?

First of all, the decision to join the steering committee was not mine. It was a decision of the minister of defense and the chief of the general staff, and I presume that someone approved it. Our part in the steering committee is to present the position of the IDF. The Planning Branch has been responsible for this for years. Our strategic department has been responsible for consolidating the IDF's security positions. It is the role of the Planning Branch to present defense positions and security interests of the IDF. It is not just restricted to the Palestinians, but in a wide variety of issues such as our foreign relations. We are responsible for presenting the IDF's position from a security angle.

I think this is right and should continue. It is very important that the IDF be involved only in the area of presenting the security position. How it is presented and in which forum is another question. This is the very defined role of the Planning Branch. It is not a question of whether I want to be a part of this or not. No one asked me and I don't think it has to enter it. Someone has to present the positions of the army. You can't make decisions which have an impact on security without the IDF giving its position.

You met recently with the Jordanian deputy chief of staff. How do you see Israel's military ties developing with Jordan?

There is a very warm relationship with Jordan. We spoke of a few matters on the agenda, and relations are very good on the military level. There is a list of things we discuss with them: the cooperation along the border, the fight against terror. We want in the future to widen the relations between the armies and defense establishments. I hope that the relations between us and the Jordanians will get stronger.

Will there be anything more formal, like a military alliance?

With the Jordanians, we have a relationship of cooperation. It is in a process of development. Some of the matters are being discussed and some have to be decided on. But there is a good open system of relations with the Jordanians. They see the development of the relations in all areas, and in my opinion in the long term there will be progress in the relations between the armies and in other areas with a country with which it has a peace treaty.

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IDF seeks to take the initiative in south Lebanon

Former navy commander Ze'ev Almog commends Netanyahu on easing the planning of IDF operations in south Lebanon, and emphasizes the importance of the military in backing up diplomatic progress, Steve Rodan reports

ZE'EV Almog still recalls the alarm in the military in 1979, in the wake of several terrorist outrages in which dozens of people were killed by Palestinians who had infiltrated from the sea. Then chief of staff Lt. Gen. Rafael Eitan ordered a string of 58 outposts erected along the Mediterranean coast. But Almog, then commander of the Navy, had another idea: Hit the terrorists in Lebanon before they leave their bases.

It took months of effort but Eitan was convinced. Units of Israel's special forces repeatedly struck at Palestinian bases. Within months, the terrorist sea-attacks stopped. "You can't say this is coincidental but in the last 18 years there have been no successful attacks," Almog says. "And there were many attempts. But they never succeeded because the terrorists were foiled early."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's government wants to return to those glory days. But this time, the arena is south Lebanon, where Hizbullah has hammered IDF and South Lebanese Army forces for the past six months in raids that have been characterized by both daring and competency.

Netanyahu has ordered the IDF as well as the security services to strike back and take the initiative. Military sources say that for the first time in years, IDF units are working overtime in their efforts to increase their presence in south Lebanon.

Defense sources say the new orders to the IDF suit the new policy being presented by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Called "Lebanon first," the Mordechai policy advocates that Israel and Syria discuss a series of confidence-building measures to restore order in south Lebanon.

It also makes the Lebanese government and any of its allies responsible for attacks on IDF troops.

These sources say Syrian troop movements might be a warning to Israel that it has not abandoned the possibility of a military attack on the Golan Heights and could be

planning a lightning-type assault on the mountain. A second development is the increasing effectiveness of Hizbullah.

IDF sources say that what only a few years ago was a group that could recruit suicide bombers, has now become perhaps the most sophisticated guerrilla movement in the world. Hizbullah, the sources say, can perform a range of operations.

Their communications system is advanced and has evaded IDF tracking. In the field, they are able to attack in battalion formation, complete with artillery support. "We are not talking about a few fanatics," a senior IDF source says. "These people use their heads all the time and learn constantly from their experiences with us. Their goal is always to be one step ahead of us."

Still, the IDF orders in south Lebanon are seen as beavering for the head of IDF northern command, Maj. Gen. Amiram Levine.

For years, Levine had pressed for the IDF to get out of their bunkers and attack Hizbullah and its allies in south Lebanon.

But, under the governments of Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, the sources say, Levine was given little authority. Rabin insisted on approving virtually every special operation in south Lebanon.

Under Peres, the operations had to move more slowly up the chain of command, where the then prime minister received the proposal from the chief of staff.

"By the time Peres got around to the issue, the terrorists had packed up and left," a defense source says.

Netanyahu and Mordechai have ordered the process streamlined, defense sources say.

Mordechai, who as head of northern command had seen his proposals for special operations often vetoed by Rabin and his then chief of staff Ehud Barak, now allows Levine to decide when and how to attack.

"There's no question that the IDF is more free in its operations in Lebanon," a defense



official says. "More means have been developed. There is an increase in the number of special forces."

The army today is more intelligent and more determined. But fighting Hizbullah is not only in the field," the official added, "it also means striking at its infrastructure and getting the support of the local population."

The sources say Levine has taken advantage of his new authority.

As former head of an elite army unit, Levine is regarded as an advocate of the use of daring mis-

sions to demoralize guerrilla forces. "He's very creative," says Col. (res.) Benny Beit-Or, a former military attache at the Israeli Embassy in Washington with long experience in special operations. "Amiram Levine is very original in his thinking, and in this way he's exceptional."

The new policy has also included steps to bolster the SLA. For years, defense officials warned of decreasing morale in the 2,800-man force of General Antoine Lahad.

Israeli negotiations with Syria and Lebanon - maintained despite

attacks in south Lebanon - had convinced many who had supported the SLA that the IDF was tired of fighting and sought a way to withdraw to its northern border. But defense sources acknowledge that an activist IDF posture in south Lebanon will mean a lot more fighting and perhaps more casualties.

Privately, some commanders have expressed alarm at the number of IDF casualties, the ease with which Hizbullah guerrillas strike Israeli troops and escape, and the level of competency of some units serving in south Lebanon.

"The kill ratio of the IDF to the Hizbullah should be 10:1 on our side," says David (Dudu) Shick, a reserve colonel and deputy commander of the sea commandos, who participated in numerous special operations. "That ratio today is nearly 1:1."

Shick says for years the IDF has simply been operating the wrong way in south Lebanon.

The army has been taking a page out of the US experience in Vietnam, which kept calling out

heavy artillery and bombers to fight the elusive Vietcong. "The trick is to hurt their morale," Shick adds.

"But after every attack, what do we do? We call in the air force. So, what do we end up bombing? Just bunkers."

Privately, some military sources agree with Shick. They acknowledge that the IDF's ability to hurt Hizbullah is limited.

With the exception of some units, most of the troops serving in the south don't know Lebanon well - leaving the advantage to Hizbullah and its local collaborators. In addition, the sources say, intelligence on Hizbullah remains weak.

This has often led to ambushes of IDF troops, sometimes even as the soldiers were preparing to surprise Hizbullah fighters. Moreover, the constant turnover of commanders has meant that many inexperienced young officers have led their troops into dangerous situations in south Lebanon.

Levine has established a special unit that is deployed just in south Lebanon, but it is not large enough

to handle the massive number of operations needed daily in the area. Other elite units are in Lebanon for too short a period of time to be effective.

The most glaring absence is that of the Navy, which for years has provided special forces to participate in commando raids in south Lebanon.

Today, the sources say, the level of the Navy's special forces has declined so much that they are no longer summoned by the IDF. "In the past, every attack on an IDF outpost always was followed by a pursuit by our soldiers," a military source says. "Today, we don't have enough soldiers who are capable enough of reacting to such attacks."

Almog, the former naval commander, says he's confident that the IDF can quickly adjust and provide enough troops necessary to maintain pressure on Hizbullah. But he says that any offensive in Lebanon will fail unless it has a clear diplomatic objective. That, he says, must be to force the Lebanese government to impose order in the south.

And the way to do it, Almog says, is to make the Lebanese government responsible for every attack on IDF troops.

"We have to tell the Lebanese government that if you don't take responsibility you will be hurt all over Lebanon," he says. "We should attack only military targets, whether they are Lebanese army bases, or even Syrian soldiers. This can be done in low-intensity operations without casualties. This has to continue all the time until the attacks stop."

If they don't, Almog says, the IDF should add new targets. These include vital civilian installations such as power stations, bridges and strategic factories. He warns against shelling towns, even those suspected of harboring Hizbullah fighters, saying this is exactly what the Shi'ite organization wants.

"The diplomatic aspect of this offensive is vital: to get the IDF out of Lebanon," Almog says. "The only chance we have is diplomacy backed up by military means."

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Tour guide: Israel Shalem

Thursday October 3 THE CRATERS OF THE NEGEV
They come from all over the world to see this most unusual phenomena which reveals the amazing strata that make up the Machtesh Ramon, the big crater and the small crater. We'll visit them all, as well as Mitzpe Ramon, the small town nearby. All will be explained at one of the wonders of the world.
NIS 170 including lunch
Tour guide: Oded Feder

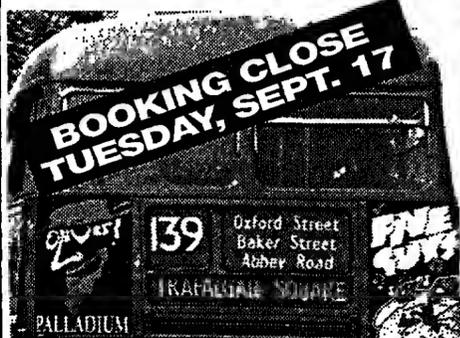
Tuesday October 8 REJUVENATING THE DEAD SEA
The lowest place on earth where the sinful cities of Sodom and Gomorra used to stand is now undergoing a revolutionary rebirth. Peace with Jordan has brought new connections. We'll visit the famous Dead Sea Works, the new Volkswagen magnesium project, Wadi Zohar and Mt. Sodom, the hotels in Ein Bokek and more.
NIS 170 including lunch
Tour guide: Oded Feder

Wednesday October 16 ZICHRON YA'ACOV - REMEMBERING JACOB
Formerly called Zamarin, this beautiful town on the hills overlooking the Mediterranean was one of the prime achievements of the First Aliyah, thanks to the help of Baron Rothschild, and the birthplace of the Nili underground. In spite of its new prosperity, it retains the atmosphere of the Hahutzim. We'll visit the winery, the Ohel Ya'acov synagogue (site of the first Orthodox/Reform debate), the Roman fortress of Shumi, Gan Hanadiv, and Beit Daniel.
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Tour guide: Ya'acov Shorer

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האזנה מן האל

COLUMNS

The leaf we turn over is a national fig leaf

GUEST COLUMNIST JONATHAN BLASS

It was a year that began with unprecedented internal division and violence. Implementation of the Oslo accords...

was instructed to investigate if the use of the slogan "Netanyahu is good for the Jews" was a prosecutable offense.

But why? The answer is that the people have had their say on Oslo and its aftermath...

proved to be against the public's own best interest. Hostility against the government for doing what it promised, and was elected to do, will be muted.

nation had been saddled with a policy it had never voted for. That the government felt justified in pursuing a policy involving a major shift from Israel's traditional positions...

opposing values, be allowed to overturn the legislation? In a democracy shouldn't the arbiter of public values be the public or its elected representatives?

Dry Bones



The national 'cement'

A VIEW FROM NOV MOSHE KOHN

THE Talmudic Sages suggest that the state of the world depends on the state of the judiciary. If the generation is heavily beset with vicissitudes and tribulations...

come upon Odysseus lying unconscious and naked where he had been washed ashore on Shkaria island (Homer's Odyssey, Book VI).

And Rabbi Asi teaches that tzedaka is as important as all the other precepts together (Bava Batra 9a). What is more, rejecting the duty of gemillut hassadim is tantamount to heresy (Kohlet Robba 7:1).

AMONG THOSE many thousands if not myriads of Israeli Jews who, by virtue of their heavy investment in gemillut hassadim/hessed/tzedaka are the pillars and cement of our society...

Confession: The essence of the mitzva of repentance

SHABBAT SHALOM SHLOMO RISKIN

IN His infinite wisdom, God could have commanded a Torah which does not allow for the possibility of fixing mistakes, righting wrongs, turning wickedness into righteousness, or foolishness into wisdom.

Sabbath's reading of Nitzevum provided us with a verse which seems a far more reasonable source for the law of repentance. Moses is addressing the people of Israel.

involved confronting the very individual whom we gossiped about or prevented from getting a raise. Despite its inherent discomfort, it is just such a combination that Jewish law expects of us during this period.

only to directly confess and request appeasement for his maid's thoughtless act, so is R. Yirmiya duty bound to "abuse himself and importune" R. Abba for the wrong he did to him.

Government Offices Closing For Succot. During Hol Hamo'ed Succot, most government offices will be closed to the public from Friday, September 29, to Friday, October 4, 1996, both dates inclusive.

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Gas masks may face liquidation

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

At the same time Israelis were rushing to obtain gas masks, as the recent events in Iraq prompted them to remember that their kits had expired, or that they never even bothered to collect any protection for their three-year-old, Israel's only gas-mask factory is facing closure.

Last week's Scud scare came just a month after the government, under heavy pressure from the Finance Ministry, decided that come January 1 the IDF would no longer be updating or issuing gas masks.

The move is to save NIS 120 million from the budget. But managers of the only factory in Israel which produces nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) protection say the decision would force them to fire scores of workers. But worse, they warn it would lead to the liquidation of an industry which it spent 29 years perfecting, leaving the state with no way of supplying its citizens with gas masks.

The scaling down of military-related industries around the world usually reflects a reduced threat of war, as peace proliferates in the global village. But the bizarre situation created here is that a factory risks being virtually shut down not because of peace, but because the government can't meet the costs.

Israel set up Shaloo Chemical Industries Ltd. in the prelude to the Six Day War to provide soldiers with gas masks. Today, the factory spreads out over 15,000 square meters in tidy quarters in Kiryat Gat's industrial zone. Due to the security nature of the product, Shaloo produces everything it needs to provide Israel with the complete NBC kit, including the rubber for the masks, plastic and metal parts, the filters and electric



The atmosphere is gloomy in Israel's only gas mask factory, where most machines lie idle as it prepares for closure. (Sarit Uziel)

fan engines. At peak production, following Saddam Hussein's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, it employed over 1,000 people producing up to

7,000 masks a day. It is the only factory producing gas masks in the country. "Today we are running at 15 percent of our potential," says Rami Baharad, plant manager. "We

have orders only until December." After that, Baharad explains, the plant will start letting go of the final 150 workers and selling off equipment and machines thus elim-

inating what he calls a vital branch in Israel's security.

Despite last week's Scud scare, Shaloo has not received any indication that the government will rescind its decision. Some of the items produced by the factory were as a result of the Gulf war—like the *baradas* protective hood for children and *shmarot* infant protector, and they cannot be found anywhere else in the world. "We'll cope. The factory won't shut, but the infrastructure for NBC protection will cease to exist," Baharad said turning his open palm over on his desk. "It will be like cutting off the branch we are sitting on."

ISRAEL and Sweden are the only countries in the world which have decided to equip their citizens with NBC protection. Since 1991, Israel has sunk NIS 1.197 billion in defending the home front. Of this NIS 770m. has been spent on gas masks. Out of nearly six million residents in Israel, some 400,000 still do not have gas masks. Each year 118,000 children are born who need to be equipped, and an average of 80,000 people immigrate.

"There is no limit for security. You can invest and invest and invest," said OC Home Front Maj.-Gen. Shmuel Arad. "Israel has the best protection for its population in the world." But, Arad added, the final decision was one of costs. Each year some 12 percent of gas masks expire and need to be updated. If the updating ceases all gas masks currently in the hands of the public will be out of date in another seven years at best. Not only that, but the people joining the circle of the protected population each year means that less than half the country will have adequate protection by the turn of the century.

Obviously, senior commanders in the Home Front believe the existing policy is correct and altering it would confound the IDF's entire civilian protection doctrine. "Without the gas masks, the whole package is damaged," Arad said. "But the responsibility is on the government," he added in an attempt to absolve any hint he was interfering with non-military decisions. Defense officials say there is going to be another discussion on the gas-mask issue and that the previous decision was not final. They say they want to try and moderate multi-year plans so that vital factories remain open.

Shaloo has tried to branch out into the civilian and foreign market which today accounts for 10 percent of its sales. Shaloo is a private company, but since it produces a military-related item, Baharad said, it needs a Defense Ministry permit to sell abroad. A clandestine attempt to sell gas masks to Arab countries during the Gulf war was foiled partly due to this.

Today, Shaloo is busy filling in last orders for the army. But most machines are idle and covered with plastic sheeting. Down to 150 core workers, most of whom have been there for over 20 years, the atmosphere is gloomy and incredulous.

Menachem Feldman, head of the workers' committee, said at last week's events show "that the decision to halt the updating plan was not right. I can't understand how they came to this decision. What's NIS 120 million? Everyday we hear how Ariel Sharon is going to invest NIS 100 million here and another NIS 100 million there. How far have we come?"

Eli Yosef, spokesman for the Finance Ministry, said the decision by the Cabinet was taken after a serious examination into the Home Front's multi-year plan and after receiving the opinions of intelligence officials.

The budget must now be approved by the Knesset, which in effect leaves it open to modification. "It's painful, but it's not my problem only. It's the whole country's. We are only a rider on the wagon. The government has to decide in which direction that wagon is headed," Baharad said. "First they talk of harming the gas-mask defense of civilians. What's next? The shelters?"



Former fashion queen Rojy Ben Yosef with former top ranking models (from left) Kitty Maman, Hanita Tzentner, Batya Dissentchik, Karen Dansky and Liora Lapidot.

The soft side to his nature

GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN

NOTORIOUS for his spontaneous and often sharp, straight-from-the-hip remarks, President Ezer Weizman also has a very soft side as evidenced on at least two occasions this week. One was at a pre-Rosh Hashana reception for new immigrants at which the president was entranced by one of the very junior guests and eventually found himself with two little girls on his lap. Another was at the ceremony celebrating the issue of the Bezeq phone card commemorating 100 years of Zionism. Noting that young people today don't touch each other when they dance, the president said that things were quite different in his youth, and that even today, the sound of tango music prompts him to spin around the floor with his wife Reema in his arms.

FORMER TOPLINE models Liora Lapidot, Karen Dansky, Hanita Tzentner, Kitty Maman, Batya Dissentchik and Hava Levy came briefly out of retirement this week, and once more took to the runway, in a voluntary capacity, to display some of the garments they used to model for Rojy Ben Yosef and the late Finny Leitersdorf in the 1960s and '70s. The flight into fashion nostalgia was appropriately at Sbenkar College, which is celebrating the publication by senior staff member Ayala Raz of her comprehensive book *Changing Times - 100 Years of Israeli Fashion - 1882-1982*. Both the fashions and the models looked every bit as good now as they did in their heyday. Enthusiastically applauding Ben Yosef, once considered the high priestess of Israeli fashion, were past and present fellow designers Rikki Beo Ari, Jerry Melitz, Miri Shafir, Noa Arher, Lily Darvish and Yuval Caspin. Not yet 40, Caspin, who also served as the gracious MC for the occasion, started his career in the year in which the book finishes.

AN INTERESTING revelation by the author herself was that way back in the early 1940s, overseas buyers flocked to Tel Aviv, which became a fashion alternative to Nazi-occupied Paris. Slides of clothes being worn in Tel Aviv at the time proved that residents in the city certainly had flair. A revelation of another kind was made by Maskit founder Ruth Dayan who disclosed that the now-defunct famous chain of stores established to provide employment for new immigrants and to encourage the perpetuation of traditional arts and crafts, would have closed after one year of operations had it not been for Leitersdorf's designs which attracted tourists from all over the world.

AND ONE last word on fashion. Ilana Margalit, well-known as a fashion-show compere in Israel and abroad, has left the bright lights of Tel Aviv to settle in Ashdod, where she has opened a modeling school. The number of beautiful Russian immigrants with star potential is incredible, says Margalit, noting that two of her pupils recently scored well in a national beauty contest.

NATIVE ENGLISH speakers who attended any of the lectures given last week by Lord Archer of Weston-Super-Mare, better known to the world as best-selling author Jeffrey Archer, are still raving about how marvelous he was. Another British-born celebrity who would have been delighted to be a member of any audience he addressed was actress Aviva Marks, who never got to hear him because she didn't know he was here. Famous though she might be, she is apparently not on the mailing lists of any of the British groups to whom he spoke.

AS FOR Archer himself, friendship is no less important to him than fame. Thrilling though the British royal scandals may be, Archer is not about to write a book about the marital breakdowns in the House of Windsor. The reason: Princess Di is a personal friend, and he doesn't want to jeopardize the relationship.

ARRIVING THIS month on his first visit to Israel is Australian Jewish actor Henry Szeps, who is familiar to Israeli television audiences via productions such as *Mother and Son*, *Macgregor's Saga* and *Palace of Dreams*. In *Mother and Son* he plays a dentist, a role with which he has become so identified under, that it provoked his new one-man show *I'm Not a Dentist*, which will get an Israeli airing on September 26 at the Herzliya home of Australian ambassador Peter Rogers and his wife Sandy.

FORMER US ambassador Sam Lewis has numerous Israeli friends and has returned many times since completing his term here. But next week's visit is for historic as well as personal reasons. Lewis, who served here during the Begin administration, will participate in a Camp David Revisited symposium at the Hebrew University's Truman Institute. The symposium, commemorating the 18th anniversary of the signing of the Camp David accords, will also be addressed by other players in the field such as former Egyptian ambassador to the US Abdel Raouf El-Reedy, Egyptian ambassador to Israel Mohammed Bassiouny, Simcha Dinitz (who was Israel's ambassador to the US at the time of the Camp David talks) and Meir Rosenne, who was at that time the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser. Curiously, President Weizman, who was also involved in the Camp David negotiations, is not listed as one of the speakers, nor is former US president Jimmy Carter. However a Jimmy Carter Camp David exhibit will be on display through the courtesy of philanthropist Alexander Leaderman.

JERUSALEM-BASED mystic Yitzhak Kadouri, whose blessings on the head of Blayamin Netanyahu may have influenced the outcome of the May 29 elections, accepted the invitation of meat-processing mogul Moshe Badash to affix the mezuza on his new Pikanti outlet in Petah Tikva. Badash, a master at marketing, ran full-page advertisements in the tabloids and had the cash registers jingling merrily for two hours prior to Kadouri's arrival. Hundreds of people who believe in the extraordinary powers of the mystic crowded into the store in the hope of receiving a blessing or at least catching a glimpse of him. When he finally arrived, he didn't stay long — but they did. And for Badash that was definitely a blessing.

THE SECRET of long life, according to retired dentist Dr. James Neuman, who this week celebrated his 102nd birthday, is not to take anything to heart. A veteran of the German army with which he fought in the First World War, Neuman, who lives in a Kfar Shmaryahu retirement home, continued to practise dentistry up to age 78. He still frequents coffee houses, where in his three-piece suits he is a picture of sartorial splendor.

ALMOST AT the half-way mark to Neuman is entertainer Dudu Topaz, who is celebrating his birthday, and contemplating a career in politics. Well, there's not that much difference between a stage and a soap-box.

IT'S BEEN a great year for celebrity weddings, and Yael Abecassis and Lior Miller, literally the model couple, just made it in time. They tied the knot last night, on the final day of the Jewish year.

IF ANYONE wondered what Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani was doing at the gala 75th anniversary dinner of the Israel Manufacturers Association, the answer is simple.

He used to be the commanding officer of IMA chairman Dan Propper who the two were in the army. Labor MK Ehud Barak, who was also at the dinner but not seated at the VIP table, was heard to remark that one of the goals he set himself is to return Kahalani to the Labor ranks.

SPULIK by DOSH

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Dried berry, it's six-sided and black (5)
- Part of body used to prance about as follows (8)
- There is a state of confusion at the asylum (8)
- Bill Price 'e'd spoken first to (8)
- A sea-song heard in Ghana (7)
- Resolute guy who does a smooth job? (3,2,4)
- Do as I do, not as I say, plant a fine specimen (3,1,4,7)
- The gin ran out, almost a disaster (4,5)
- It is not round the orbital path (7)
- Excuse for some unpleasantness (4)
- Isolate copper, a distinguished person (3,3)
- Spring tide? (6)
- Throw light on the building (4)
- Meet large lumber by the roadside (8)
- What a model might say she is doing is majestic (8)
- Cotton material spread round French horn (10)
- 4 down with quip perhaps about the ornamental work (8)
- I propose to remove the creature from the sea (8)
- Putting two and two together perhaps (6)
- Obvious statement about rust I'm treating (6)
- A workroom up in North Wales (4)
- Give out when time's up (4)

DOWN

- Odious similarity, might it be said? (10)
- Companion, before daybreak, with this converted believer from India (8)
- Poet getting sunburnt? (8)

SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Amused, 7 Greek, 8 Tormenter, 9 All, 10 Seal, 11 Cessal, 12 Pledge, 14 Remark, 17 Blight, 18 Bear, 20 Car, 22 Scrapping, 23 Trait, 24 Decrease.

DOWN: 1 Alter, 2 Narrows, 3 Lies, 4 Esteem, 5 Nomad, 6 Skyline, 7 Cruiser, 12 Against, 13 Placate, 15 America, 16 Charge, 17 Break, 19 Rogue, 21 Spar.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Inheritor (4)
- Repairer (8)
- Of an area (5)
- Hot dusty wind (7)
- Cheek (3)
- Acted on stage (9)
- Refrain (6)
- Greek goddess (6)
- Part of helmet (9)
- Society girl (3)
- Seclusion (7)
- Biblical measure (6)
- In unison (8)
- Mormon state (4)

DOWN

- Filbert (5)
- Boy's name (3)
- Make certain (6)
- Output (4-3)
- Advise (9)
- Welsh valley (7)
- Panic (4)
- Supplying (9)
- Pilot's compartment (7)
- Parvenu (7)
- Mole (6)
- Ancient Briton (4)
- Bunch (5)
- Objection (3)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, September 13, 1996

15

Shohat defends Labor's record

DAVID HARRIS

IN 1994, the Labor government did not stray from the path of fiscal consolidation, former finance minister Avraham Shohat said yesterday, defending his record following the critical report of the economy published by the International Monetary Fund on Wednesday.

The report suggested the country's current economic crisis was caused by the "expansionary fiscal policy during the last two years."

"I don't want to enter a row with the IMF," said Shohat. However, he stressed he disagreed with the IMF analysis. "The problems were not caused by spending, but a failure in the ability to collect revenue."

Shohat pointed to the total deficit as a percentage of GNP, as proof of his success. "In 1992 we inherited a deficit which was 6.2 percent of GNP. By 1994, it was down to 2%, and while it rose in 1995 and 1996, it was still half of the 1992 figure."

Netanyahu: Gov't worried about drop in revenues

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE government will go ahead with the planned budget cut of NIS 4.9 billion for 1997 and cut the budget even further if necessary, but the drop in revenues remains worrying, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday.

Speaking at the Manufacturers Association annual conference Netanyahu said the growing budget deficit is due primarily to a drop in revenues and not increased government spending. Netanyahu did not try to explain the drop in revenues or how the government intends to increase them.

The prime minister acknowledged the manufacturers' concern over the sector's drop in earnings, which the industrialists attribute to the 19% lag in the adjustment of the foreign currency rate and the rise in interest rates. During the next few days, Netanyahu intends to meet with Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel and

Finance Minister Dan Meridor to discuss the "timing of the budget restraint and interest restraint in order to encourage growth, and especially export growth."

"The problem of interest rates will be corrected by coordinating fiscal restraint and lowering of interest rates; a correction in exchange rates will automatically come after these two actions," said Netanyahu.

Earlier this week, the International Monetary Fund published a report recommending the government continue its budget-cut program, reduce spending and implement its structural programs.

In October or November the government intends to present its first privatization proposal, said Netanyahu, saying that the government will privatize everything it possibly can. "I promise that this

government will privatize more than has ever been privatized in the past," he said.

The prime minister said he had no doubt the economy could achieve the government's goal of \$20,000 GDP per capita.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor said yesterday that it is necessary to approve the NIS 4.9 billion budget cut to avoid a crisis. Urging the cabinet to approve the cut, Meridor said "the government has to do things already in the first year and not drag things over four years."

The budget deficit is expected to grow to NIS 12 billion and even higher this year, about NIS 4b. higher than the Treasury's initial forecasts. Meridor blamed the rise mainly on the former government's "irresponsible" public-sector wage hikes which amounted to a 25% real wage rise over a three-

to-four year period.

Meridor warned government employees that they will not receive similar wage hikes in the coming year. "The real wage will remain. This is the most that can be expected," he said.

While Meridor approves of the Bank of Israel's attempts to reduce the inflation rate, he stressed that lowering inflation is only one of the government's economic objectives. "The interest-rate policy... has an important role in growth. It is necessary to maintain a balance between the objectives of preventing inflation and growth objectives."

Commenting on the capital market, Meridor said the Brodet Committee, which was asked to probe the market's problems, is expected to present its recommendations after Rosh Hashana. "It is not normal that a country that has experienced growth in the last five-six years does not have a capital market that can serve companies that want to invest."

Meridor emphasized the government is in favor of an open economy. "Competition is the name of the game and specialization is the way to succeed in the game. For this reason we will continue to expose the economy [to competition]," he said.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)				
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	5.375
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	4.250	4.250
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	3.875	4.000	2.125	1.000
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	1.825	1.825	1.000	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	0.825	0.750	1.000	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (12.9.96)				
CURRENCY	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES	
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
Currency basket	3.5151	3.5713	3.544	3.544
U.S. dollar	3.1387	3.1894	3.08	3.24
German mark	2.0791	2.1127	2.04	2.16
French franc	4.8914	4.9602	4.79	5.09
Japanese yen (100)	0.6088	0.6187	0.59	0.63
Dutch florin	2.8553	2.9014	2.80	2.95
Swiss franc	1.8550	1.8850	1.82	1.92
Canadian dollar	2.5456	2.5887	2.50	2.63
Australian dollar	0.4702	0.4778	0.46	0.49
Norwegian krone	0.4847	0.4926	0.47	0.50
Danish krone	0.8394	0.8481	0.83	0.86
Finnish mark	0.8883	0.8995	0.87	0.91
Belgian franc (10)	1.0259	1.0389	1.02	1.05
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9851	3.0028	2.90	3.05
Italian lira (1000)	2.0683	2.0936	2.02	2.13
Jordanian dinar	4.3600	4.4800	4.36	4.68
Egyptian pound	0.8900	0.8700	0.89	0.87
ECU	3.9258	3.9823	3.88	4.05
Irish punt	5.0832	5.1348	4.98	5.21
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4611	2.5008	2.41	2.54

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI



Bezeq, Tadiran in deal on switching gear

JUDY SIEGEL

BEZEQ reached an agreement with Tadiran Communications this week on the sale of switching equipment at a 25% discount over the next four years. This significantly improves the terms of sale of such equipment, which Bezeq buys in large quantities.

Recently, Bezeq reached a similar accord with Telrad. As a result, the company will save hundreds of millions of shekels by

investing 25% more in infrastructure for the same price.

Bezeq director-general Yitzhak Kaul said that since the company is facing competition from the private sector, it is trying to reduce costs and increase efficiency.

Zeev Zeevi, deputy director-general for economics and logistics, has been negotiating with suppliers for several months.

Eisenberg launches council promoting China-Israel relations

GREER FAY CASHMAN

PREEMPTING the fifth anniversary celebrations of the forging of diplomatic ties between China and Israel, illustrious industrialist Shaul Eisenberg and former ambassador to China Zeev Sufot on Wednesday launched the Council for the Promotion of China-Israel Relations.

The time is ripe, said Eisenberg, to create understanding between the people of Israel and the people of China "in every possible field, not just in business."

Eisenberg, whose personal associations with China span more than half a century, recalled that he had first fled to that country in 1941 "as a German Jew without papers."

"It was a refuge for many Jews escaping the Nazis," he said.

It was a very emotional experience, he said, to visit Shanghai as an Israeli citizen "with my president."

Eisenberg accompanied then president Chaim Herzog on his official state visit to China four years ago.

During the visit, he took Herzog to see the world's largest glass manufacturing plant, which he owns in partnership with the Bank of China.

Herzog has agreed to become the patron of the council, of which Eisenberg and Sufot are chairman and deputy chairman respectively, and Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres is the council's honorary president.

Herzog observed that "we are establishing economic relations with what will be the greatest economic power in the world in the near future."

Both Eisenberg and Sufot made special mention of Chinese Ambassador Wang Ching Yi, who was one of the architects of China-Israel relations, and who secretly came to Israel to help create the framework for diplomatic exchanges.

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.



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ANNOUNCEMENT



ARES-SERONO SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY U.S. DISTRICT COURT

The settlement offer of \$26 less fees and expenses, not to exceed \$1.00, to InterPharm shareholders, who held shares on May 6, 1994 and still hold them, will expire on October 15, 1996.

If you held InterPharm shares on May 6, 1994, ask your investment representative (bank or broker) to contact E. Shalev Ltd. at 03-526-2666 as soon as possible.

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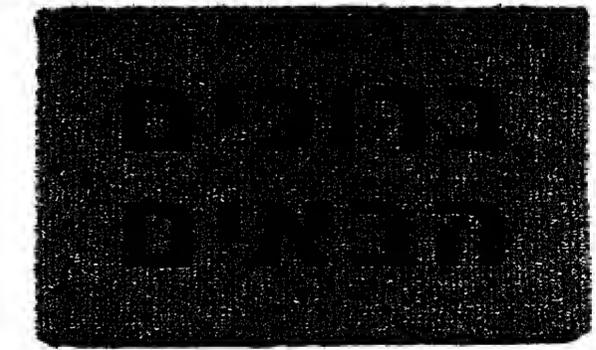
ISRAEL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY LAND BORDER TERMINALS

New Winter Time Operating Hours

With the transition to winter time on September 15, 1996, there will be a one-hour time difference between Israel and Jordan.

The border crossings between Israel and Jordan will operate in accordance with Israel winter time.

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Change
US dollar ... NIS 3.1690 +0.03%
Sterling ... NIS 4.9262 +0.12%
Mark ... NIS 2.0946 -0.12%

NYSE STOCK MARKETS
New York market indexes
Last Change
DJ Industrials 8771.94 +17.02
S&P 500 3404.53 +17.14

Other stock market indexes
Last Change
FTSE 100 3822.6 -2.77
Tokyo Nikkei average 15243.1 -127.1

Israeli stocks in NY
Last Change
NYSE / AMEX
Am Is Prop 3.88 +0.79
Am Is Ind 1.00 +0.02

LIBOR MONEY MARKETS
Dollar crossrates (US)
Last Change
Pound 1.566 -0.002
D-mark 1.8125 -0.0017

LIBOR MONEY MARKETS
Labor rates
Last Change
Dollar 3 months 6.125 0
Dollar 6 months 6.125 0

Foreign financial data courtesy of
CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

INTL COMMODITIES AND METALS
US commodities
Last Change
Cocoa (Del) (CME) 1300 +30
Coffee (Del) (CME) 105.2 -1.7

London commodities
Last Change
Cocoa (Del) (LSE) 986 -14
Coffee (Del) (LSE) 1021 -15

Spot market metals (US)
Last Change
Gold spot 382.56 -0.6
Silver spot 5.03 -0.06

New York metal prices
Last Change
Gold (Del) 382.2 -0.5
Silver (Del) 5.03 -0.1

BUSINESS & FINANCE

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

Multi-sided trading
Two-sided trading
AFTERNOON MORNING
Name Price % Volume Price % Volume
Tel Aviv 182.01 182.01 182.01
Bank Leumi 182.01 182.01 182.01

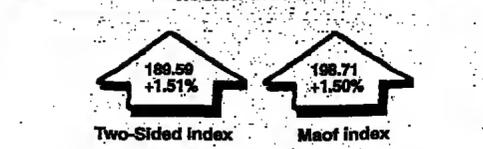
ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

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NEW YORK
Price chg Name Price chg Name Price chg Name Price chg Name
Alcoa 37.125 -0.125
Amgen 52.125 -0.125
Arista 18.125 -0.125

Teva, Tadiran lead shares up

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



SHARES rose yesterday, led by Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, which got US clearance to market a drug, said Tadiran Ltd., a subsidiary of which won a contract to supply equipment to Bezeq.

Iraq fears hike oil, FTSE closes at record

LONDON (Reuters) - Talk of possible US attacks on Iraq pushed world oil prices to post Gulf War peaks yesterday, while London's FTSE Index closed at a record high on the back of a strong Wall Street.

Dow approaches new highs

NEW YORK (AP) - The Dow Jones industrial average flirted with new highs yesterday as the latest inflation figures eased worries the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates sharply to slow the economy.

Dow approaches new highs

NEW YORK (AP) - The Dow Jones industrial average flirted with new highs yesterday as the latest inflation figures eased worries the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates sharply to slow the economy.

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NETANYAHU INTERVIEW

(Continued from Page 9)
You say settlements should keep pace with natural growth, but natural growth in the country is about 2%-3%, not 50% over four years. Do you plan to add 50,000 settlers into the territories over the next four years as you suggested July in Washington?
Natural and otherwise... I don't want to specify, whether we are dealing in numbers or percentages or any other thing. I think the important thing is policy. We haven't stipulated a number. We've stipulated principles, and the principles are that we're not going to limit the flow, the growth of population in these settlements. We haven't decided yet. We reserve the right to build new settlements; we haven't decided anything concrete on this matter.

EU and Orient House

Is it fair to say that the leading European foreign ministers, "the troika," would not be welcome to meet with you here if they visit the Orient House?
That's fair to say... They are welcome in Israel, we would like to see them in Israel, but I think that it's also fair to say that we very much value their call to honor agreements. Since they ask us to honor our end of the agreement, I think they should not take part in encouraging the Palestinian Authority to violate their part in not having any governmental institutions in Jerusalem.
So if they come to Orient House, there's no meeting with the prime minister?
I'd rather say that I hope that they don't come to the Orient House. I'd much rather have an affable and productive meeting with them.

Syria

Can you just repeat what you said in the cabinet today, that Yitzhak Rabin made a conditional promise to the US to pull-back on the Golan to the June 4, 1967 lines if he was satisfied with security arrangements and normalization?
It only was a hypothetical agreement based on the assumption that the Syrians would live up to a whole array of conditions that they have not lived up to. It was also given to the US and not to the Syrians. It didn't involve a written document or a contract, and it is commonly understood in international law and in common sense that a hypothetical position aired in the course of negotiations, not consummated and not formalized in any agreement and given to a

third party, is certainly not a document that you would obligate the next government, and indeed, it doesn't obligate.
The May 1995 "non-paper" on principles of security arrangements is unsigned. Is that binding on this government?
Same thing. It is not a binding document, and I don't think it can be viewed as such by any standpoint of international law.
Anwar Sadat went to war in 1973 not because he thought he could win, but because he wanted to break the political stalemate. Do you think Syria might do the same thing and make a political calculation to go to war, even if such a confrontation is militarily unwinnable?
That would be a very grave mistake. I think Syria has an interest in peace and stability as much as we do, at least as much as we do. And I think any such action on the part of Syria would be precipitous and unwise, and certainly not in the interest of Syria and certainly not in the interest of peace.
Is "Lebanon First" still alive, given the Arab reaction?
It's alive, exactly as it was when I presented it. I never presented it as a precondition for Syria's entering the talks. On the contrary, I said there are no preconditions. But you can be sure that once we begin negotiations, I will raise my suggestion about resolving the issue in Lebanon alongside Syria's suggestion on other parts. They don't have to accept my position on Lebanon any more than I have to accept their position on the Golan... This year our principal task is to move ahead in the negotiations for peace with the Palestinians and with the Syrians, if they show signs of genuinely wanting to negotiate.

very problematic issue, or the question of private property versus state's rights, and so on. I have not made up my mind yet. I have spoken to leading jurists. The main argument is between jurists. I want you to know.
Do you favor judicial review?
It's an area that I am looking into. If there's one area that I don't want to make snap judgments about, it's this area which goes at the fundamental question of governments and constitutions. But I don't question for a second the supremacy of law and the inviolability and independence of our courts. In fact, I view with gravity any attempt to our threaten our judicial institutions, and our lawyers have instructed the police to act very firmly against it.
You gave a recent interview in which you said that Margaret Thatcher had a Parliament that was much more supportive of economic reform than you have. I remember my interview with you during the campaign, when you said that within 100 days, which is almost up, there will be a legal groundwork for privatizing 50 of 160 government companies.
Within 100 days, I think most of the legal work will be finished... We are going to seek to privatize as much as we can, and this government will privatize more than any other government has privatized before, a lot more.
Your voters largely came from the lower end of the socioeconomic strata. Can you, in a narrow government, do privatization and economic reform or do you need a unity government?
No. It's the lower echelons that will benefit most from privatization, because they pay the greater part of their income for goods and services that are made more expensive by the lack of competition. Privatization is supposed to be bad for the workers. Most of the workers are not involved in privatization. Most of the workers pay the price of cartels and monopolies and inefficient companies controlled by governments.
Secondly, we also intend to involve the workers, in equity schemes and other programs, in the privatization, so it's to their benefit as well. Privatization is good for everyone in the economy, and we intend to pursue it very aggressively.
Soon?
Yes. In October-November, we shall embark on the first round of privatization. Most of the legal work is finished and we're ready to go... We have a sequence, a plan to come with a round of privatization and have instructed attorneys to begin with it. This is our second main target. [First is] expanding the circle of peace while insisting on security. And second, liberalizing and privatizing the Israeli economy.
Happy New Year, Mr. Prime Minister.
Happy New Year.

Domestic Issues
You speak of the separation of powers, which exists in the US. But the US has the critical notion of judicial review, which enables the courts to nullify legislation as unconstitutional. It seems the heart of the issue of the courts is whether you favor judicial review?
Well, I think that it's one of the major issues. I think that Israel is coming of age. And certain problems that were either swept under the rug or did not come to the forefront of the national agenda have arisen. In fact, we cannot sweep it aside.
Maybe, it's a sign that we are approaching a state of growth and peace with at least some of our neighbors, and it's positive that we allow ourselves already to delve into these matters as a society...
This debate is now prompted by the religious-secular divide, but I think that there are many other issues that could warrant such an examination. For example, the Arab-Jewish question, the question of the differential approach to Arab citizens and Jewish citizens.

Rosh Hashana
(Continued from Page 1)
homes and another 33% are planning to be with relatives. In fact, for the entire holiday period, lasting through Succot, which ends October 5, 64% of those surveyed said they had no vacation plans. A total of 8.4% said they intend to go abroad, compared to 5.9% last year, while 22.2% said they planned to take a vacation in Israel, a drop from 25.4% last year.
Rosh Hashana is marked tonight with a festive meal, featuring apples dipped in honey, to symbolize a sweet year. During the holiday, worshippers are expected to fill synagogues throughout the country.
Because tomorrow is Shabbat, the shofar will only be blown on Sunday. For the same reason, the traditional tashlich ceremony, in which worshippers visit a body of water and symbolically cast off the previous year's sins, is also to take place on Sunday.
Shops and offices are to remain closed until Monday morning. Public transportation will also stop tonight and resume at the end of the holiday, on Sunday night.
Rosh Hashana, which marks the beginning of the year 5757, is the beginning of the Ten Days of Penitence, culminating in Yom Kippur. The Shabbat between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur is known as Shabbat Shuva, after the haftara ("Return - shuva - O Israel, unto the Lord." Hosea 14) read that day. The Shabbat is marked by sermons on repentance delivered by rabbis.
Monday, the day after Rosh Hashana is Tzom Gedalya, the Fast of Gedalya, commemorating the murder of Gedalya, the Jewish governor of Judea, appointed by the Babylonians. The day is not a

public holiday. This year, a group of worshippers, organized by Meimad, is to hold a public service on the fast day at the site of the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in Tel Aviv.
Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz called on the public to be on the lookout for suspicious activity over the holiday weekend, and not to hesitate to report such activity to the police.
"We are doing everything possible to ensure security, and to prevent terror attacks," Hefetz said in a statement. "But there is no replacement for public alertness to help the police in its work."
Thousands of policemen will be on duty over the holiday weekend. The army and Civil Guard are to provide extra manpower to beef up internal security, as is normally done on Rosh Hashana and other holidays, a police spokesman said.
Police will have random checkpoints and numerous patrols across the country in an effort to prevent the infiltration of terrorists, the spokesman said. He stressed that the measures being taken this year are similar to those in past years, and no special alert had been called.
Meanwhile, firefighters across the country have been put on alert because of the expected hot, dry weather, according to a statement released by the Fire and Rescue Commission.
"The Fire and Rescue Commission, together with the Israel Police, the Jewish National Fund, the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and the IDF, are on special alert to prevent arson and to put out fires in those regions designated as being at high risk," the statement said.

DRIVE SLOWER!
DRIVE WITH CARE!

NAHMANI

(Continued from Page 1)
Michael Beo-Yair. Eighteen months ago, in a 4-1 decision, the court ruled that Danny's right to be a parent outweighed Ruti's right to motherhood. Ruti then asked for a second hearing before an expanded panel of justices, and in another precedent-setting decision - there had never before been a second hearing on a case originally heard by more than three justices - the court agreed, citing the extreme importance of the issue.
Yesterday, an 11-justice panel overturned the earlier ruling, with seven justices siding with Ruti to be a parent. It is more important than the right not to father children.
Ruti said she had never really believed the court would reverse its decision, and therefore did not yet have a surrogate lined up. "I came here with a sense of calm - that I had finished this period [of my life], and was beginning a new life," she said. "Now, I need to rest and refuel a bit."
"Everyone who stood by me during the struggle... I want to say thank you from all my heart. You have given me the gift of my life," she added. "And to the court, I want to say one thing: I think you have succeeded in moving forward together with science and medicine. Together with me, you have in essence opened up a new way of getting pregnant, which will make many couples happy."
Dany Nahmani was not in court yesterday, and refused to be interviewed. His lawyer, Diana Har-Even, seemed to express his feelings, however, when she left the courtroom with

stunned: "I don't believe it."
"This is intervening in a man's most intimate affairs, his choice of whether or not to be a parent," Har-Even said afterward. "This is an area I would rather the state not get involved in. It is hard for me to reconcile myself to this ruling, which is at bottom a moral decision rather than a legal one."
Gruber, however, disagreed. "I believe this verdict will enter the pantheon of [great] verdicts," he said. "[It is] a defense of the basic human rights of women and children, a sign that the ancient principles of honoring agreements and pursuing justice still apply today... and [a statement that] the future, which is changing so rapidly, must be based solidly on the past - on the moral principles set down in the Torah."
The verdict was enthusiastically received in many quarters, from Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau, who praised it for pointing out the importance of the sanctity of human life, to the Israel Women's Network, which lauded it as a victory for women. (Story, Page 3)

"Due to the lack of symmetry between men and women regarding pregnancy - the fact that the woman bears the entire physical burden - she also should determine whether or not to exercise her right to parenthood," said the IWN's legal adviser, attorney Rivka Meller-Olshtzky, though the court's decision established no such principle. "If continuation of the process of in vitro fertilization was in the husband's hands, this would give the husband absolute power and control over his wife."

to a related matter, the Egyptian army is currently conducting its largest maneuvers since the Yom Kippur War. Dubbed "Operation Badr," the simulated battles in upper Egypt are expected to last for six more days. Yesterday, Egyptian forces staged a sea landing at the Red Sea port of Safagah.

SYRIAN

(Continued from Page 1)
the demilitarized zone of the Golan Heights, in contravention of the 1974 disengagement agreement brokered by former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger following the Yom Kippur War.
This is the first time that Syria has flouted the agreement, and UNDOF, which monitors the zone, is preparing a report on the activities of the Syrian engineers for UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and members of the Security Council.
Tensions between Israel and Syria have been increased over the past month by reports that Syria had tested loog-range Scud missiles, facilitated the delivery of loog-range Katyusha rockets to Hizbullah and moved troops to Lebanon.
According to the report, "senior Israeli officers on the spot are not worried. They reckon that Syria is doing its share of saber-rattling and has no intention of launching a war."

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Douglas Davis contributed to this report.

Dear Friend, Please take a moment and think about three families in dire straits we want to tell you about and we ask you to try to put yourself in the place of these parents.
1. Premature twins were born with serious problems in their spinal cords and with undeveloped internal organs. Their parents are desperate. Our finest surgeons have begun a series of operations to save their lives, and there is hope for them. Kipat Holim, however, does not cover the cost of the operations. Their parents are economizing as much as possible, saving every shekel they can, but they have committed themselves to huge loans and their mental state is also deteriorating. By now they are penniless and cannot pay for their children's treatment - the lives of the twins are in danger.
2. What will happen to a family of ten children, one of whom, Moshi, was born with an internal birth defect. The child has been in great pain for several years and now requires long-term hospitalization. The entire family is in a desperate state.
3. Consider the case of Rivki, whose father has been a teacher for many years at one of Jerusalem's famous yeshivot. Rivki is suffering from a serious illness and requires extremely expensive treatment every three days. Her father has no one to turn to for help and is deeply in debt, and her mother no longer has the physical or mental strength to cope with the child's terrible suffering. Her parents have reached the end of their endurance and have taken too many loans. Immediate help is required to pay the medical costs to save Rivki's life.
To the above picture there is no need to add another word. These four children can be strong and healthy and live normal lives but only if they have the financial support they need. We cannot sit at the bedside of these children and lessen their pain, and we cannot relieve their parents. But there is one thing we can do, and this is to heed the rabbis who have established a special fund to save the lives of the children. The future of these children is in our hands - we will not abandon them. We appeal to you to open your heart and in this way receive health and success for yourself and your family and the realization that you have helped bring happiness and life to these children and their parents.
No other words are necessary.
The weekly medical expenses for each of these children is as follows:
All the children - \$1,700. Twins - \$800. Rivki - \$500. Moshi - \$360-600.
All contributions in any amount will be gratefully accepted.
The rabbis supporting and managing the fund:
Rabbi Moshe A. Freund, Rabbi Haim Pinchas Steinberg, Rabbi Moshe Y. Miltzki, Rabbi Nissim Karelitz, Prof. Abramsky, Dr. Linder.
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NO PASSING LANE - My-Pa 47's Tom Enberg tries to get by Liverpool's Jason McAteer during their European Cup Winner's Cup game yesterday.

Struggling Liverpool still overcomes My-Pa 47, 1-0

ANJALANKOSKI, Finland (Reuters) - Norwegian international defender Stig-Inge Bjornebye crowned his first European match for Liverpool by scoring the winning goal in the team's 1-0 win over My-Pa 47 in the European Cup Winners Cup yesterday. Bjornebye, 26, who scored his first ever goal after four seasons at Liverpool last month, added a second when he smashed home a left-foot shot from the edge of the box after 61 minutes to give the English side a slender, but probably vital advantage for the second leg of this first round tie at Anfield in two weeks time. But Liverpool, no longer the force it was in Europe when it won the Champions Cup four times between 1977 and 1984, struggled for periods against the Finnish part-timers, most of whom are students or workers in the local paper mill.

Liverpool went close in the first half with striker Robbie Fowler having a close-range shot scrambled off the line and fellow forward Stan Collymore seeing a near-post flick slide inches wide just before halftime. My-Pa was by no means overawed by its opponents' reputation and produced several threatening breaks with striker Niclas Gronholm and defender Tooi Hutunen both latching on to accurate long balls from a well-organized midfield. Liverpool became increasingly dominant as the match progressed, and in the end were unlucky not to add two more with midfielders Jason McAteer and Michael Thomas both hitting the woodwork before the final whistle. Paris Saint-Germain 4 FC Vaduz 0 Paris Saint-Germain began its defense of the European Cup

Winners' Cup with a leisurely stroll to a first round, first leg victory in Liechtenstein. Defender Paul Le Guen put them in front with a header from an inswinging corner from the right by Brazilian Leonardo in the 12th minute. The outclassed Vaduz part-timers' hopes of changing ends only one goal down were dashed with two more in the last five minutes of the first half, a header by Julio Cesar Dely Valdes and a dipping shot from the edge of the box by Leonardo. Substitute Bernard Alou added a fourth goal midway through the second half with the holders attacking the goal in front of the giant cross built for the papal visit a few years ago in the tiny Eschoe stadium. In Moscow, Lokomotiv Moscow (Russia) 1, Varteks Varazdin (Croatia) 0 (1-0). Scorer: Igor Cherevchenko (12th).

In Batumi, Dynamo Batumi (Georgia) 1, PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands) 1 (1-1). Scorer: Dynamo - Amiran Mujiri (21st), PSV - Luc Nilis (penalty, 39th). In Aarhus, Aarhus (Denmark) 1, Olimpija Ljubljana (Slovenia) 1 (1-0). Scorer: Aarhus - Lennart Esk (16th), Olimpija - Kilton Bozgo (57th). In Bistrita, Romania: Gloria Bistrita (Romania) 1, Fiorentina (Italy) 1 (1-0). Scorer: Gloria Bistrita - Ila Lazar (3rd), Fiorentina - Gabriel Omar Batistuta (53rd). In Sion, Sion (Switzerland) 2, Niva Vinnitsa (Ukraine) 0 (0-0). Scorer: Christian Colombo (50th), Christophe Bonvin (85th). In Chişinău, Constructorul Chişinău (Moldova) 0, Galatasaray (Turkey) 1 (0-0). Scorer: Adrian Knip (73rd). In Bruges, Cercle Brugge (Belgium) 3, Brann Bergen (Norway) 2 (3-1). Scorer: Cercle Brugge - Michael Genssoe (8th), Dominique Vornassele (27th), Alex Cammermeyer (32nd), Brann Bergen - Tor Andre Flo (38th), Claus Enevog (90th, penalty).

Smarting Reds bid to storm to top of Premier League

LONDON (AP) - Manchester United can bounce back from its Champions Cup loss to Juventus by jumping four places to the top of the Premier League tomorrow. With the four clubs above United not in action until Sunday or Monday, Alex Ferguson's team can surpass them all to regain the spot it held for the last two months of last season when it won its third title in four years. To do that, United must score a home victory over Nottingham Forest, which has won only one of its first five games. And, after the disappointment of Wednesday's 1-0 Champions Cup loss to the defending titlist Italians, Ferguson just needs to remind his players of their last Premier League performance, a stunning 4-0 victory at Leeds on Saturday. That win, which lifted Ferguson's unbeaten team to nine points from two wins and three ties, showed United at its best, tearing the Leeds defense apart with fast breaks from the back. Eric Cantona even had his first penalty miss as a United player but later scored one of the four goals. Despite the loss in Turin, United gave its fans some good news with the announcement that its five young stars, England internationals Gary and Phil Neville and David Beckham plus Nicky Butt and Paul Scholes, all had signed new contracts keeping them at Old Trafford until 2001. A United victory over Forest probably won't keep Ferguson's team in first place for long. The leadership could change hands three times

in three days and any one of six teams could wind up top come Monday night. The current leader, Sheffield Wednesday (12 points from five games), doesn't play until Monday, when it visits eighth-place Arsenal. But second place Chelsea (11 points) hosts fourth place Villa (10) Sunday when Liverpool, which is third with 11 points, goes to lowly Leicester. Even Newcastle, which has climbed to sixth and has nine points, can go top if it beats next-to-last Blackburn by five or six goals and all the other results go in its favor. At the other end of the standings, things look pretty grim for Coventry, Blackburn and Southampton, even after only five of the 38 league games. Coventry and Blackburn have one point each after a tie and four losses while the Saints have two. Coventry, which has former Manchester United manager Ron Atkinson in charge, can repair some of the damage by beating erratic Leeds at home. But Leeds will want to start lift under new manager George Graham with a win. Graham took over at Elland Road Tuesday after Leeds fired Howard Wilkinson Monday. Blackburn will be facing former star striker Alan Shearer for the first time. The England captain, who scored more than 100 goals for Rovers in four seasons, moved to Newcastle in a world record £15 million transfer just before the season started. Southampton, oow managed by Graeme Souness, hosts a strangely lackluster

Tottenham team which has won only one of its five games and is 14th of the 20 teams. Of the other strugglers, West Ham, which is third from last with five points, hosts Wimbledon, which has one more point but is four places higher. Everton, which is 16th with five points, has a home game against free-scoring Middlesbrough, which now has Danish forward Mikkel Beck to go alongside Brazilians Juninho, Emerson and Branco and Italian star Fabrizio Ravanelli. Boro ties with Manchester United as top scorer with 12 goals. Derby and Sunderland, who have settled into mid-standings after promotion from Division One, meet tomorrow with identical records of one win, three ties and one loss. Division One leader Barnsley, which has started the season with five wins in a row, hopes to make it six when it hosts Queens Park Rangers, one of the teams relegated last season from the Premier League. Barnsley holds a two-point lead over another promoted team, Bolton, which hosts improving Portsmouth. Scottish champion Rangers, which tumbled 3-0 at Switzerland's Grasshoppers in a Champions Cup game Wednesday, hopes to bounce back with a home victory over Hearts tomorrow and maintain its 100 percent start to the domestic campaign. Rangers, with 12 points from four games, bids to stay two points clear of second place Celtic, which goes to next-to-last Dundee United.

Chris Gomez's RBI single in the ninth inning carried the host Padres to victory that kept the Padres virtually even with the Los Angeles Dodgers in the red-hot NL West Division race. The Padres were losing 7-6 when they already knew that the Dodgers had beaten Cincinnati to take a half-game lead in their dramatic race. But they tied the score 7-7 in the eighth on Wally Joyner's RBI single, then won it with their ninth-inning rally. Doug Boehler (1-4) pitched a scoreless ninth to pick up the win as the Padres remained one percentage point behind the Dodgers. Dodgers 3, Reds 2 The Los Angeles Dodgers converted three Cincinnati errors into three unearned runs in the fifth inning, and Chad Curtis had an RBI double as Bret Butler's

Gordon, Daniel lead Jerusalem over Eilat

THE new year started much like last year for Hapoel Jerusalem last night at Malha. In his season debut, it was Jerusalem's Adi Gordon coming through in the clutch when it counted, as he did last season, to lead his club to an 84-79 victory over Hapoel Eilat. Eilat's first game of the season had a familiar ring to it for their fans as well - they earned another A for effort for a fine first half, in which they led at one point 22-8. But foul trouble that plagued Eilat's backcourt duo of Meir Tapiro and Amir Katz did them in down the stretch. The new wrinkle for Jerusalem was the debut of former Maccabi Tel Aviv sixth man Motti Daniel. Daniel was an instant hit with the fans, leading all scorers with 20 points. More importantly, he provided a steady presence and fantastic defense for coach Pini Gershon's club in the hotly contested game, which had a playoff intensity despite its being the curtain-raiser for both clubs. Things didn't look very promising for Daniel and his teammates early on. Showing off their vaunted offensive firepower, Eilat took off at the opening whistle, racing down the court in waves and distributing the ball beautifully. Led by Tapiro - who had an awesome first half, in which he scored 14 points without missing a shot, including two three-pointers - the southerners got the ball inside to Joe Dawson when they wanted, or

whipped it outside for jumpers. Their defense in tatters, Jerusalem's offense was also sputtering. A series of early misses by Papi Turgeman and some other shots that just would not go down led to Jerusalem's scoring just six points in the first 6:30 of play. When Tapiro hit a gorgeous fade-away, his club led 30-19, and Eilat looked like they would live up to their preseason press clippings. But Gordon had other ideas. Sneaking into the basket under bigger players or feeding his teammates, he and Daniel brought the club back within striking distance at halftime, 46-39. Jerusalem's new foreigner, Dan Bingheimer, had been having a rough night, with four turnovers in the first half, including a fumbled breakaway lay-up after a steal. But it was Bingheimer who got Jerusalem rolling early in the second half, burying a three-pointer on the first play to pull Jerusalem within four. Billy Thompson followed with a jumper before Daniel tied it at 46, and in just 2:30, Eilat's lead was gone. To their credit, they fought back. Eilat center James Forrest, a Georgia Tech grad, took advantage of Thompson's being forced to sit after committing his third foul, scoring a few nice baskets. Ari Rosenberg filled in ably for the foul-plagued Katz, and Dawson clipped in to give Eilat a 56-48 lead.

But Gordon - a perfect 9-9 from the line - would not be denied, nor would Daniel. With the aid of a more aggressive defense, Jerusalem hung in there until Daniel hit one of 3 three-pointers he had on the night to give Jerusalem a 67-64 lead with 8:30 left which it never relinquished. As for Eilat, it was another frustrating loss for a team which always seems to have so much potential. Tapiro, a hero in the first half, was a goat in the second, especially after picking up his fifth foul of the game with an unnecessary shoving of the much bigger Bingheimer to the floor in an attempt to get around a screen late in the game. His absence hurt his club badly down the stretch and put a damper on what had been an outstanding evening for him. For Jerusalem, Gordon had 19 points while Bingheimer, much improved in the second half, had 17 and nine rebounds, along with three steals. Eilat was led by Nanad Markovitch with 19, while Dawson had 15 and Forrest 14 and seven boards.

National Basketball League

Team	W	L	Pct.
Maccabi Rishon	1	0	2
Hapoel Galil Eyon	1	0	2
Givat Shimon	1	0	2
Hapoel Jerusalem	1	0	2
Maccabi Paternon	0	1	1
Hapoel Tel Aviv	0	1	1
Hapoel Sefed	0	1	1
Hapoel Eilat	0	1	1
Maccabi Tel Aviv	0	0	0
Bnei Herzliya	0	0	0
Hapoel Holon	0	0	0
Maccabi Ramat Gan	0	0	0

Alou's two-run shot powers Expos past Cubs

CHICAGO - Moises Alou's two-run homer in the eighth inning lifted the Montreal Expos to a 2-1 victory over the Chicago Cubs, salvaging the final game of a three-game series on Wednesday. Montreal pulled within 1 1/2 games of the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Diego Padres for the National League wild-card berth. With the Cubs trailing 1-0 in the eighth, David Segui drew a one-out walk from Terry Adams (2-0) and Alou hit the ball over the left-center field fence four pitches later for his 19th homer. Padres 8, Pirates 7 Chris Gomez's RBI single in the ninth inning carried the host Padres to victory that kept the Padres virtually even with the Los Angeles Dodgers in the red-hot NL West Division race. The Padres were losing 7-6 when they already knew that the Dodgers had beaten Cincinnati to take a half-game lead in their dramatic race. But they tied the score 7-7 in the eighth on Wally Joyner's RBI single, then won it with their ninth-inning rally. Doug Boehler (1-4) pitched a scoreless ninth to pick up the win as the Padres remained one percentage point behind the Dodgers. Dodgers 3, Reds 2 The Los Angeles Dodgers converted three Cincinnati errors into three unearned runs in the fifth inning, and Chad Curtis had an RBI double as Bret Butler's

replacement. Playing for the first time since Butler broke his left hand Tuesday night, the Dodgers completed a three-game sweep of the Reds and won for the 15th time in 19 games. Ismael Valdes (13-7) earned his first victory at Dodger Stadium since July 12, allowing two runs and five hits in seven-plus innings. Giants 4, Cardinals 2 Barry Bonds' second two-run homer of the game broke an eighth-inning tie and gave the host Giants victory. The Giants broke a five-game losing streak and handed the Cardinals just their second loss in 12 games. AMERICAN LEAGUE Orioles 7, White Sox 6 (10) Eddie Murray's sacrifice fly in the 10th extended host Baltimore's wild-card lead to 1 1/2 games over Chicago. The Orioles have won five straight and 29 of 44, including the first two games of the series. Frank Thomas and Lyle Mouton homered for the White Sox, who were 7-2 against the Orioles before Tuesday. Chicago hit a 3-0 lead, then rallied from a 6-3 deficit to tie it in the eighth. Yankees 7, Tigers 3 Ruben Sierra, traded from New York to Detroit on July 31, badly misplayed a fly ball in left field that allowed the Yankees to score the go-ahead runs in the seventh. Jimmy Key (11-10) got his first

victory at Tiger Stadium in six years. Key, 0-4 with a no-decision here since his last win in 1990, gave up three runs and eight hits in six innings. With the score tied 3-3, runners on second and third and two outs in the New York seventh, Paul O'Neill hit a routine fly to Sierra in left. Sierra, a notoriously poor fielder, moved easily under the ball but badly misjudged it. The ball dropped next to him, allowing Derek Jeter and Bernie Williams to score to make it 5-3. Twins 7, Athletics 2 Paul Molitor went 3-for-5 to move within seven hits of 3,000 and Brad Radke pitched a five-hit ball as his Minnesota kept its slim wild-card hopes alive. Molitor, who singled twice and doubled, now has 2,993 hits over his 19-year major league career. With 17 games remaining in 1996, it's likely that Molitor will become the 21st player in history to reach the 3,000-hit milestone. (Reuters, AP)

WILD CARD RACE NATIONAL LEAGUE

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	81	64	.559	-
San Diego	82	66	.558	-
Montreal	78	66	.545	2
Houston	77	70	.524	5
Colorado	75	71	.514	6

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	79	63	.554	-
Chicago	78	68	.534	1
Seattle	73	70	.510	5
Boston	74	72	.507	6
Minnesota	73	72	.503	6

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	85	58	.597	-
Montreal	79	68	.545	7
Colorado	71	78	.483	16
Philadelphia	65	81	.445	22
Philadelphia	59	87	.404	28

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	79	67	.541	-
Houston	77	70	.524	2
Chicago	73	72	.503	5
Cincinnati	73	73	.500	6
Pittsburgh	59	85	.410	19

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	81	64	.559	-
San Diego	82	66	.558	-
Colorado	75	71	.514	6
San Francisco	60	84	.417	20

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	81	66	.553	-
Baltimore	79	68	.545	2
Boston	74	72	.507	8
Toronto	67	79	.459	15
Detroit	51	85	.348	31

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	86	58	.597	-
Chicago	79	68	.545	9
Minnesota	73	72	.503	13
Minnesota	70	77	.476	17
Kansas City	67	79	.459	20

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Texas	83	62	.572	-
Seattle	73	70	.510	9
Oakland	71	76	.483	13
California	65	81	.445	19

SPORTS BRIEFS

Iverson comes to terms with 76ers Allen Iverson, the number one pick in the NBA draft, agreed to terms with the Philadelphia 76ers yesterday. The 76ers announced that Iverson, an All-American guard at Georgetown University, will sign the contract today at the Broad Street site of the new CoreStates Center. Terms were not disclosed but Iverson is slotted by the rookie salary cap to receive a three-year contract for a maximum \$9.38 million. Reuters

Raptors sign Camby to three-year deal The Toronto Raptors signed former UMass star center Marcus Camby, the second overall pick in the NBA draft, to a three-year deal, the club announced. "I'm relieved to get it over with," said Camby after signing the \$8.4 million contract, the maximum allowed under the NBA's new rookie salary cap. "It's been a dream come true of mine. Now I'm officially in the NBA and I just can't wait for the season to start," added the 6-11 220-pound Camby, who is expected to play power forward for Toronto. Reuters

MCCC plans all-day local cricket tourney The Motley Crew Cricket Club, which is based in the Sharon area, is organizing an all-day six-a-side tournament to be held at the Wingate Institute on October 2. Teams representing the South African Embassy, the Tel Aviv Cricket Club, the Netanya Cricket Club, Bar-Ilan University, Kibbutz Beit Rimon and an Israeli-Indian team, along with the MCCC's two teams, will be participating. The event is open to all players and their families and friends. For further information, call 03-5258588. Post Sports Staff

Bailey says no to race with Johnson

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A proposed October match race between Michael Johnson and Donovan Bailey to determine the world's fastest man apparently fell apart on Tuesday when the Canadian 100 meters world record holder shot down the idea. A California-based promoter was set to stage a 150-meter showdown on October 6 in Toronto that would have paid the winner \$1 million and the loser \$250,000. Johnson, America's Olympic hero who obliterated the 200 meter record in Atlanta in a stunning 19.32 seconds, was apparently set to go. Bailey, who lowered the 100-meter world record to 9.84 seconds in winning at the Olympics, declined the invitation. "I think some time we'll race ... but it won't happen in 1996," Bailey said. But the Canadian sprinter angered the Johnson camp by saying he would "easily win" a race against the American, who made history by becoming the first man to win the 200 and 400 meters gold medals at the same Olympics.

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A-G: No reason to investigate Suissa

THERE are no grounds for a criminal investigation against Interior Minister Eli Suissa, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair decided yesterday.

Ben-Yair was ruling on a complaint by David Mir, who heads a company called Mekor which owned land in Jerusalem expropriated in 1991 for the Har Homa project. Mir has since fought the project bitterly.

On March 19, the Jerusalem District Court issued an injunction forbidding the regional planning and building committee, which was chaired at the time by Suissa, from approving the Har Homa plan. The committee approved the plan that same day, however, and Mir charged that it did so illegally, in violation of the court order. Furthermore, he claimed, Suissa falsified and destroyed evidence relating to this crime.

However, a preliminary police

EVELYN GORDON

inquiry revealed that the plan was approved before the court order arrived at the committee's offices, and the approval was therefore legal. No evidence was uncovered to support any of Mir's other charges. Therefore, there is no justification for a broader investigation, Ben-Yair said.

In other news, Ben-Yair formally asked the Knesset to lift Likud MK Ehud Olmert's parliamentary immunity, so he can stand trial on charges of aggravated fraud, falsifying corporate documents, tax code violations, and a violation of the Party Funding Law (making a false declaration to the state comptroller). The Knesset House Committee will begin discussing the request when the Knesset returns after the holidays.

All the charges relate to Likud's 1988 election campaign,

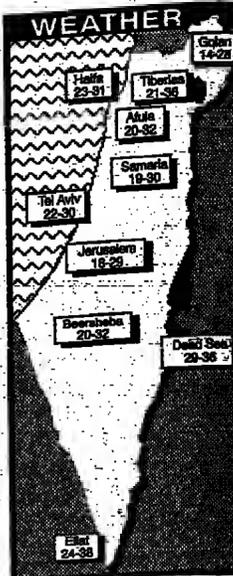
during which Olmert served as party treasurer. According to the draft indictment, Olmert told Yona Peled - one of the heads of a non-profit organization raising funds for the party - to solicit money from businesses, and in exchange give them fictitious receipts indicating that the money was spent on advertising.

Olmert omitted this money from the report he later filed with State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, thereby deceiving her into giving the party a clean bill of health for its finances. This enabled the Likud to receive the remainder of its campaign funding - NIS 2.148 million - from the government.

Peled and eight others were convicted of their share in the scam by the Tel Aviv District Court in March. No indictment was filed against Olmert before now because Ben-Yair was waiting to see the outcome of this trial.



Shlomo Abukrat of Moshav Tzelaon sounds the shofar during *shofar* prayers yesterday at the Western Wall. (Joe Malcho)



Forecast: Slight rise in temperatures. Rosh Hashana: warmer.

Nurses plan strike on Monday

A STRIKE by the nurses in the public hospitals, scheduled to begin last Sunday but postponed due to a labor court arrangement, is on again. The nurses' union said the strike will start on Monday morning due to "foot-dragging" by the Health and Finance ministries.

A week ago, Tel Aviv Regional Labor Court Judge Sara Meiri was asked by the Health Ministry for restraining orders against the nurses,

JUDY SIEGEL

es, who are demanding an increase in nurses' job slots to cope with the growing number and needs of patients. But, after ministry representatives agreed to enter talks, the strike threat and the request for restraining orders were postponed.

Both sides agreed to enter serious talks to deal with hospital manpower problems and report back to the

court yesterday. But union head Ilana Cohen charged that government representatives behaved "improperly and stubbornly," with the intention of "fooling the labor court and wasting time." Thus the union said it would strike at all public hospitals - those owned by the government, Kupat Holim Clalit and voluntary organizations such as Hadassah and Shaare Zedek - immediately after Rosh Hashana.

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Location	Low	High	Notes
Amman	12	26	clear
Bahia	13	26	clear
Bangkok	23	32	partly cloudy
Beijing	10	18	clear
Bombay	23	32	partly cloudy
Brussels	10	18	clear
Calcutta	23	32	partly cloudy
Chicago	10	18	clear
Hong Kong	23	32	partly cloudy
London	10	18	clear
Los Angeles	10	18	clear
Madrid	10	18	clear
Manila	23	32	partly cloudy
New York	10	18	clear
Paris	10	18	clear
Seoul	10	18	clear
Singapore	23	32	partly cloudy
Taipei	23	32	partly cloudy
Tokyo	10	18	clear
Toronto	10	18	clear

Father runs over daughter

Yarden Bizawi, 18 months, was killed in Eilat yesterday when her father accidentally ran her over with his car. Yarden and her mother had gotten out of the car to let the father continue driving on, when the toddler jumped out of her mother's arms and ran in front of the vehicle.

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